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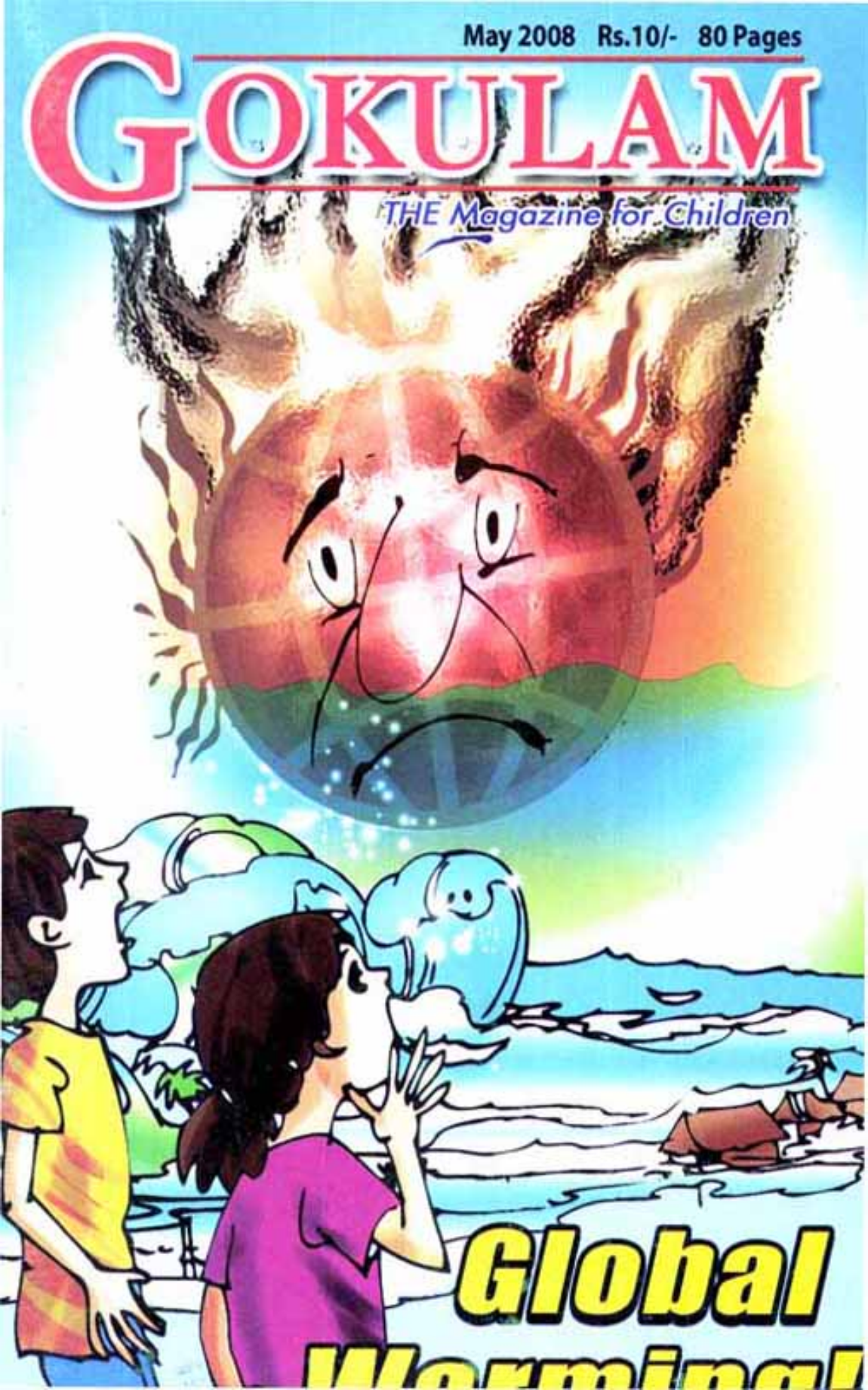
GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children



Global Warming!

PARLE
Ram and Shyam
Science Whiz
MMM...POPPINS!
POPPINS
RAM & SHYAM WITH THEIR FRIENDS REHAN AND NINA ARE AT THE INDIAN SCIENCE FACILITY WITH RAM'S UNCLE, DR. NAIK.
HERE ARE OUR NEW DEVICES - SUPERSPEED SKATEBOARDS, BUT OUR MOST PRECIOUS OBJECT IS THE RUBY WHICH POWERS A POWERFUL LASER GUN.
NO ENTRY
THEN SUDDENLY THERE COMES THE NOISE OF AN ALARM.
OH NO, DOOM'S GANG IS TRYING TO STEAL THE RUBY AND GUN. CHILDREN STAY HERE. GUARDS RUN TO THE INSIDE CHAMBER.
QUICK LET'S HAVE A POPPINS, I HAVE AN IDEA. SHYAM, NINA AND REHAN USE THE NEW SUPER SPEED SKATEBOARDS.
THE GANG BURSTS INTO THE ROOM WHERE THE THIEVES AND GUARDS BATTLE AND SHYAM & REHAN PROTECT THE SCIENTISTS.
MEANWHILE DOOM SEES RAM AND NINA ENTERING THE INSIDE CHAMBER ON THE SUPER SPEED SKATEBOARD AND ...
AFTER THOSE BRATS. I WANT THE RUBY.
MOVE ASIDE BOY. I WANT MY PRIZE.
NOW I'VE WON. NO ONE WILL STAND IN MY WAY. HA HA HA HA.
BUT INSTEAD OF A POWERFUL BLAST OF LASER, THE RUBY BURSTS. THE GUARDS OVERPOWER THE THIEVES.
BUT IT SHOULD HAVE WORKED.
WELL, IT WOULD HAVE. BUT INSTEAD OF A REAL RUBY, YOU PUT IN OUR FAVOURITE POPPINS.
FINALLY AFTER DOOM AND HIS MEN ARE TAKEN AWAY...
CHILDREN FOR YOUR HELP, WE'RE GIVING YOU A SUPER SPEED SKATEBOARD.
THANKS UNCLE, BUT WE ALSO HAVE OUR MAIN GADGET...
POPPINS.
PARLE
POPPINS

KALKI GROUP
HOUSE of QUALITY

GOKULAM

THE Magazine for Children

Of all created things the loveliest.
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

May 2008 Vol.XX, No.10

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THE Magazine for Children

The Triumph of Labour

Dear Reader,

I'm sure you have planned your holidays in such a way that you do something useful and of lasting value, besides enjoying leisure. The greeting "Happy Holiday" has meaning only under such circumstances.

The first day of May, as you know, is "Labour Day". It is a holiday for all industrial establishments and offices; in order to celebrate the "Triumph of Labour".

Let us not confuse the opposition to child labour to mean opposition to physical work. A boy or girl need not and should not work manually beyond capacity and certainly not at the expense of his or her schooling. But this does not mean that children should not be asked to do any physical work. They should strive to help their parents in house keeping, gardening, cooking and running errands.

Let us remember that we need plumbers, carpenters, electricians etc., besides scientists and I.T. professionals. Let us not forget that thousands upon thousands of people in this country muddy their feet and soil their hands so that all of us can eat well and lead a healthy life. Let us be thankful to them by recognizing the "Dignity of Labour".

- Editor

Fun Riddles!

1. He travels all over the world but stays in a corner. Who is he?

2. The world sleeps but they play running and catching. Who are they?

- Sujatha.S.Iyer, Std.VIII, Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Chennai - 20

3. I am black when you buy me. I am red when you use me. I am grey when you throw me away. Who am I?

4. If you wet me, I will die. If you shape me, I will fly. But I will serve you as best for all your reading, writing etc. Who am I?

5. Why is a river so rich?

6. Which 'pan' cannot be used for cooking?

7. Which 'key' cannot open a lock?

- T.D.Rayon, Std.V, Montfort School, Trichy

ANSWERS :
1. Stamp 2.The hands of the clock
3.Coal 4.Paper 5.It has two banks
6.Japan 7.Turkey

Who, Who, Who?!

Behind Each Word...!

Pessimist: A person who says O is the last letter in ZERO, instead of the first letter in Opportunity.

Diplomat: A person who tells you to go to hell in such a way that you actually look forward to the trip.

Classic: A book which people praise, but do not read!

Dictionary: The only place where divorce comes before marriage.

Miser: A person who lives poor so that he can die rich.

- R.Sharanya, Std.VIII, Mahila & Nutan English High School, Goa

Etc: A sign to make others believe that you know more than you actually do.

Committee: Individuals who can singly do nothing, but jointly decide that nothing can be done.

Politician: One who shakes your hand before elections and shakes you after it!

Smile: A curve that can set a lot of things straight.

Optimist: A person who starts taking a bath if he accidently falls into a river.

A curve that can set a lot of things straight!

Did You Know?

Green Remedy!

Cabbage leaves are used for eczema and fungal skin infections.

Cinnamon leaves are used for common colds.

Tender **cashew leaves** are chewed for toothache.

A paste obtained from **papaya leaves** is used for burns.

Mustard leaves are heated and applied over 'mumps' affected area.

Boiled **mango leaves** are taken as tea for night blindness.

Eucalyptus leaves are used for eczema and dermatitis.

The juice extracted from **Marigold leaves** is used as drops for ear infection.

Neem leaves are used in the treatment of intestinal worms and diabetes.

Balsam leaves are crushed and applied for fungal skin infection and ringworm.

Drumstick leaves are cooked and eaten for asthma and hyper tension.

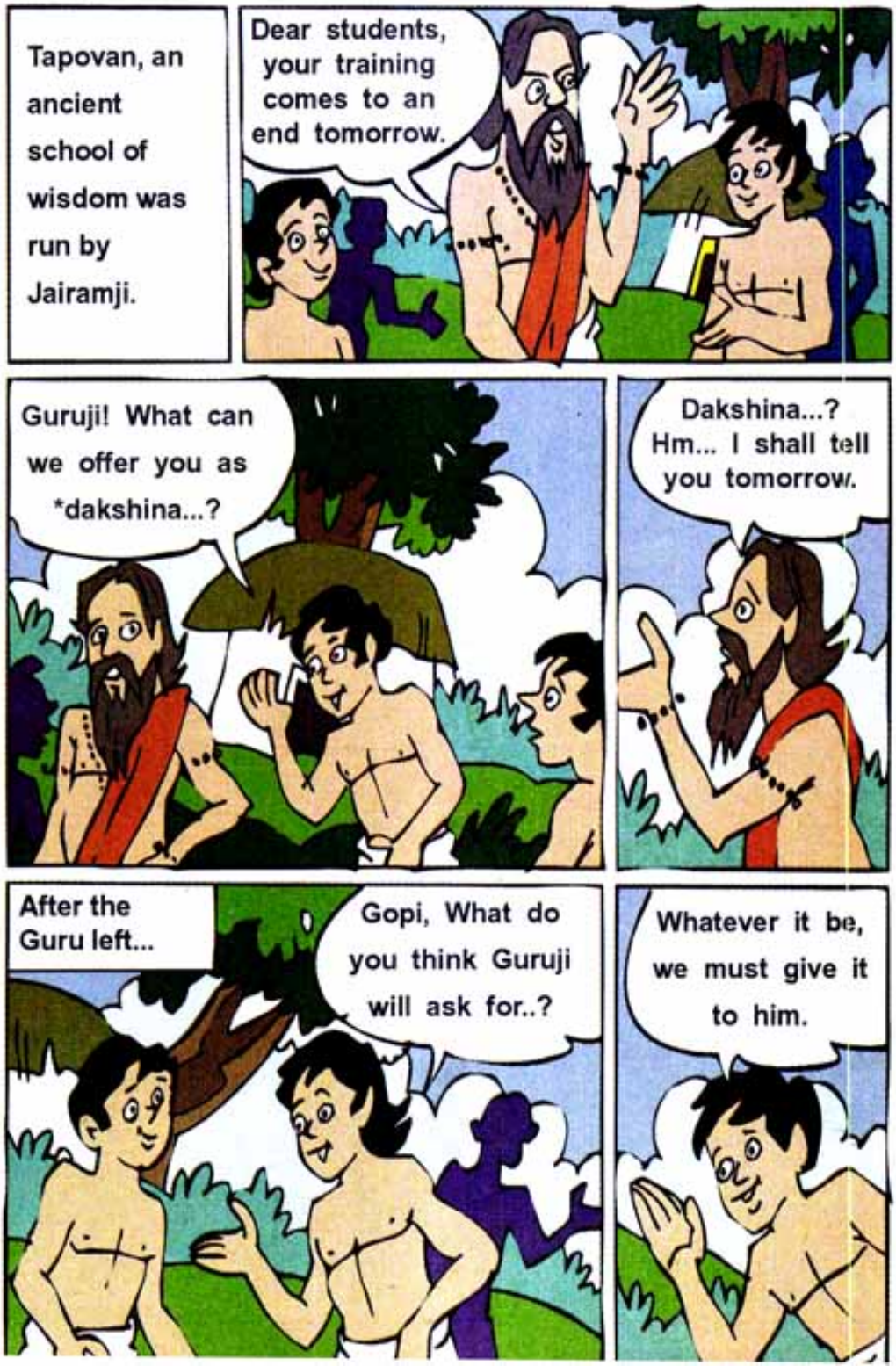
Source: GK book.

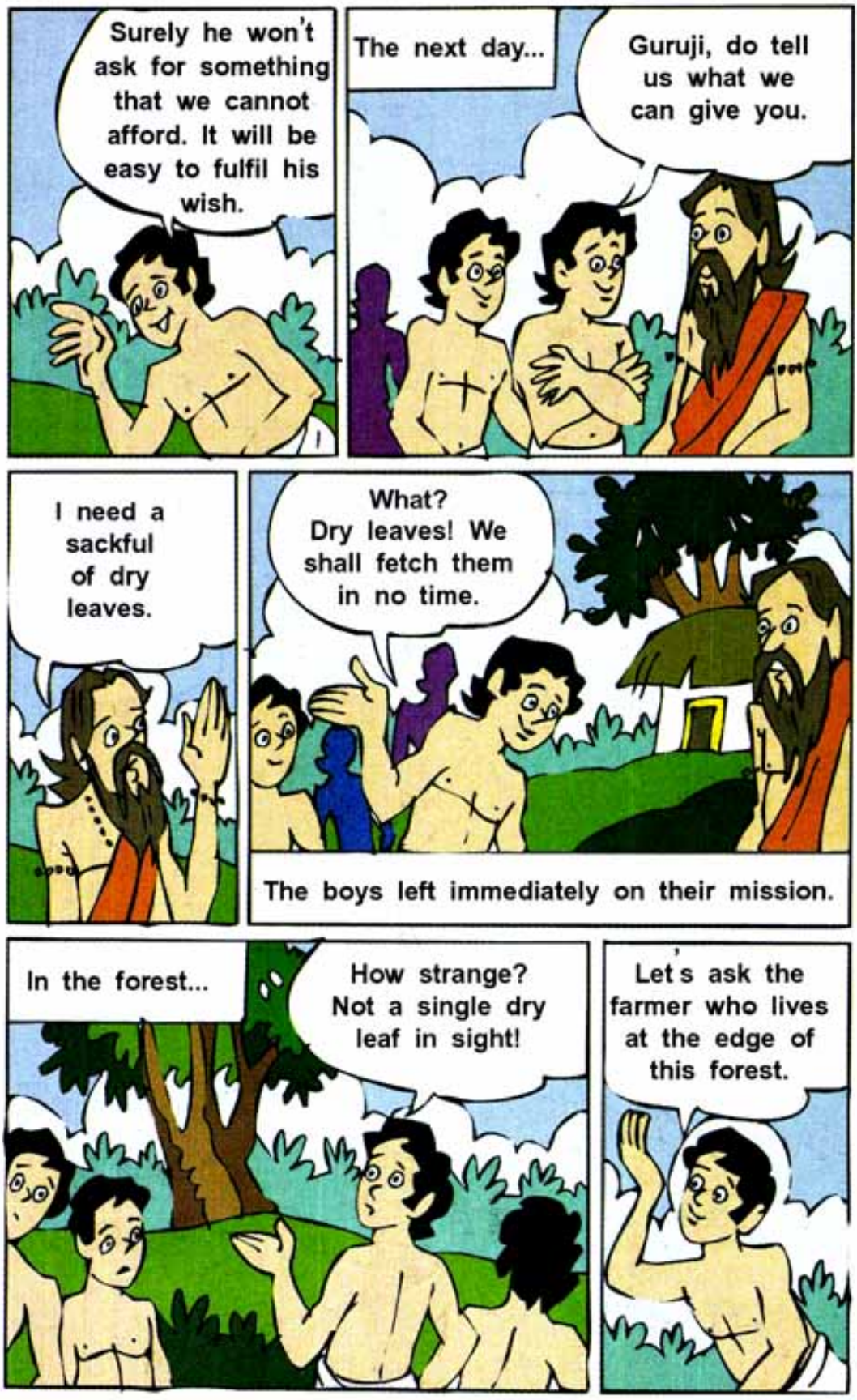
- Yazhini Anbumani, Std.IX, Kalaimagal Kalvi Nilayam Matric School, Erode.

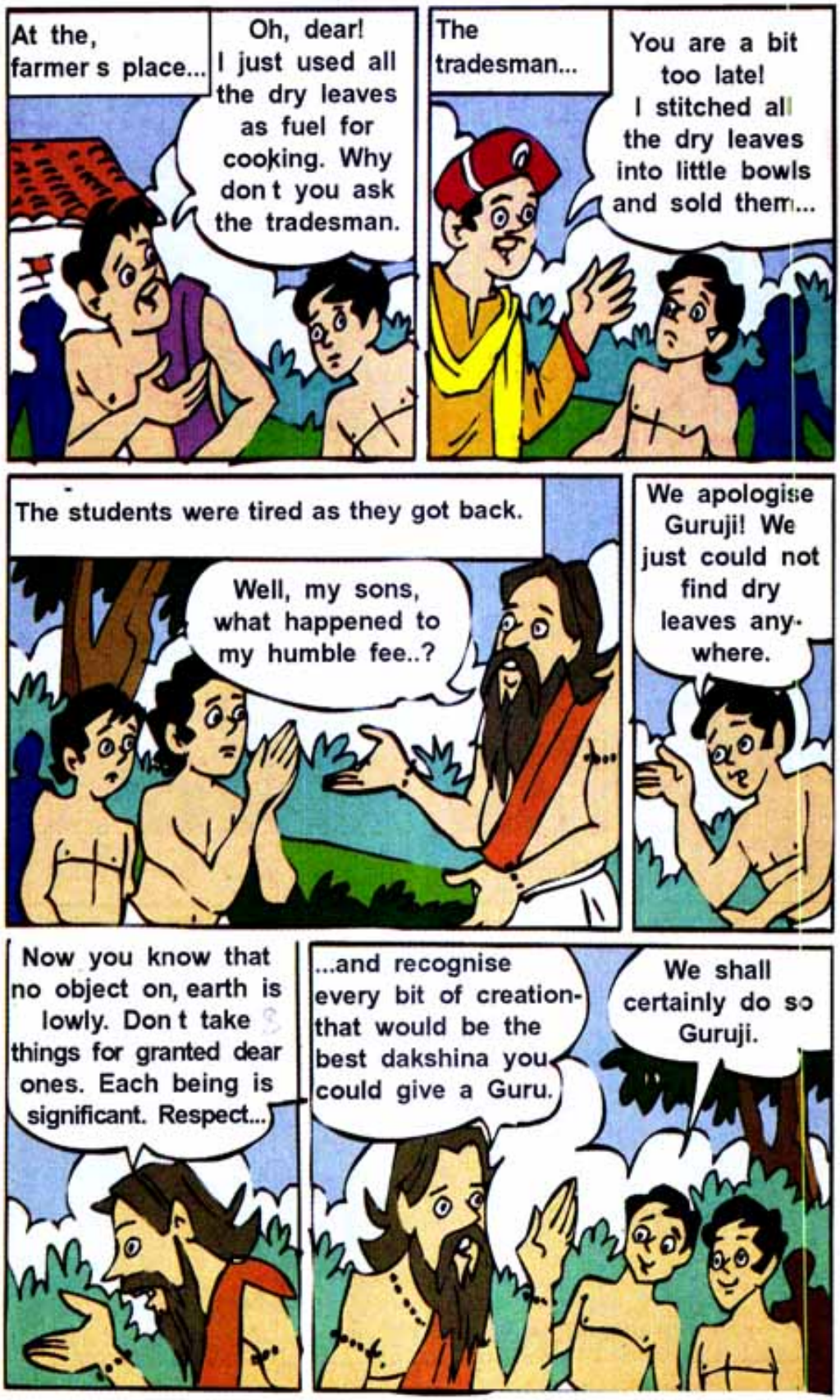
Dry Leaves

Story: Thasmilla

Pictures: Ramki




Surely he won't ask for something that we cannot afford. It will be easy to fulfil his wish.
The next day...
Guruji, do tell us what we can give you.
I need a sackful of dry leaves.
What? Dry leaves! We shall fetch them in no time.
The boys left immediately on their mission.
In the forest...
How strange? Not a single dry leaf in sight!
Let's ask the farmer who lives at the edge of this forest.


At the, farmer s place...
Oh, dear! I just used all the dry leaves as fuel for cooking. Why don t you ask the tradesman.
The tradesman...
You are a bit too late! I stitched all the dry leaves into little bowls and sold them...
The students were tired as they got back.
Well, my sons, what happened to my humble fee..?
We apologise Guruji! We just could not find dry leaves any-where.
Now you know that no object on, earth is lowly. Don t take things for granted dear ones. Each being is significant. Respect...
...and recognise every bit of creation-that would be the best dakshina you could give a Guru.
We shall certainly do so Guruji.

பள்ளி, கல்லூரி மாணவ, மாணவியருக்கு

யுவஸ்ரீ கலா பாரதி விருது

மதுரை பாரதி யுவ கேந்திரா சார்பில் இசை, படிப்பு, ஓவியம், சமூகப்பணி, பரதநாட்டியம், பேச்சு, கவிதை, விளையாட்டு ஆகிய துறைகளில் ஏதேனும் ஒரு துறையில் சிறந்து விளங்குகிற L.K.G முதல் 12ம் வகுப்பு வரையிலான மாணவ, மாணவியருக்கு **'யுவஸ்ரீ கலா பாரதி'** என்ற விருதினையும் கல்லூரி மாணவ மாணவியருக்கு **'சுவாமி விவேகானந்தர்'** விருதினையும் ஒவ்வொரு ஆண்டும் மாவட்ட வாரியாக வழங்கி வருகிறோம். ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் வெள்ளிக்கேடயம் மற்றும் விருதுக்கான பெரிய அளவிலான பட்டயமும், ஸ்படிக மாலையும் வழங்கப்படும்.

தமிழ்நாடு மற்றும் பாண்டிச்சேரியில் உள்ள அனைத்து மாவட்டத்தைச் சார்ந்த பள்ளி மாணவ, மாணவியருக்கு இவ்விருது வழங்கும் நிகழ்ச்சி அந்தந்த மாவட்டத்தில் நடைபெற உள்ளது.

ஒவ்வொரு பள்ளியிலிருந்தும் ஒவ்வொரு வகுப்பில் உள்ள அனைத்து பிரிவுகளில் இருந்தும் முதல் 5 ரேங்க் பெற்ற மாணவ மாணவியர் மற்றும் இசை, UC MAS, ABACUS ஓவியம், சமூகப்பணி, பரதநாட்டியம், பேச்சு, கவிதை, அனைத்துவிளையாட்டு, பொது அறிவுத்திறன், யோகா ஆகிய துறைகளில் தகுதியுடைய பள்ளி, கல்லூரி மாணவ மாணவியர் தாங்கள் பெற்ற பரிசுக்கான ஜெராக்ஸ் பிரதிகளின் நகல்களுடன் அடியிற்கண்ட முகவரிக்கு ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் வீட்டு முகவரி, தொலைபேசி எண்ணுடன் கூடிய ரூ.10 அஞ்சல் தலை ஒட்டப்பட்ட சுய விலாசமிட்ட கவருடன் உடன் அனுப்பிட கேட்டுக்கொள்ளப்படுகிறார்கள்.

தேர்வு செய்யப்பட்டவர்களின் விவரம் அவர்களது வீட்டு முகவரிக்கு அனுப்பப்படும். விருது வழங்கும் விழாவில் அவரவருக்கு எடுக்கப்படும் புகைப்படச் செலவை ஒவ்வொருவரும் கண்டிப்பாக ஏற்க வேண்டும்.

நெல்லை பாலு,
நிறுவனர்-பாரதி யுவ கேந்திரா,
G-28, சாந்தி சதன் குடியிருப்பு,
கோச்சடை, மதுரை-625 016.
செல் 94439-30815, 94426 30815.

யுவஸ்ரீ கலா பாரதி விருதுக்கு தமிழ்நாடு மற்றும் பாண்டிச்சேரியில் உள்ள ஒவ்வொரு மாவட்டத்திலும் உள்ள இசை, பரத நாட்டிய ஆசிரியைகள், ஓவியம், கராத்தே, யோகா மற்றும் UC MAS, ABACUS, HINDI மாஸ்டர்களும் தங்களிடம் பயிலும் சிறப்பானவர்களின் பெயர் பட்டியலையும் அனுப்பலாம். மேலும் கடந்த மூன்று ஆண்டுகளில் 10ம் வகுப்பு மற்றும் +2 பொதுத்தேர்வில் 80% மற்றும் அதற்கு மேலும் மதிப்பெண் பெற்றவர்கள் தங்கள் பெற்ற மதிப்பெண் பட்டியலின் ஜெராக்ஸ் பிரதியுடனும் விண்ணப்பிக்கலாம்

கவிதை தொகுப்பு நூல்

பாரதி யுவ கேந்திரா சார்பில் 200 கவிஞர்களின் கவிதைகளைத் தொகுத்து ஒரு கவிதைத் தொகுப்பு நூல் மே மாதத்தில் வெளியிட உள்ளோம். இந்நூலுக்கு கவிஞர்கள் 24 வரிகளுக்குள் மரபு அல்லது புதுக்கவிதை ஒன்று எழுதி எமது மேற்கண்ட முகவரிக்கு அனுப்பலாம். அத்தோடு ரூபாய் 250/- **M.O.** மூலம் அனுப்பவும். ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் 5 புத்தகங்கள் அனுப்பிவைக்கப்படும்.

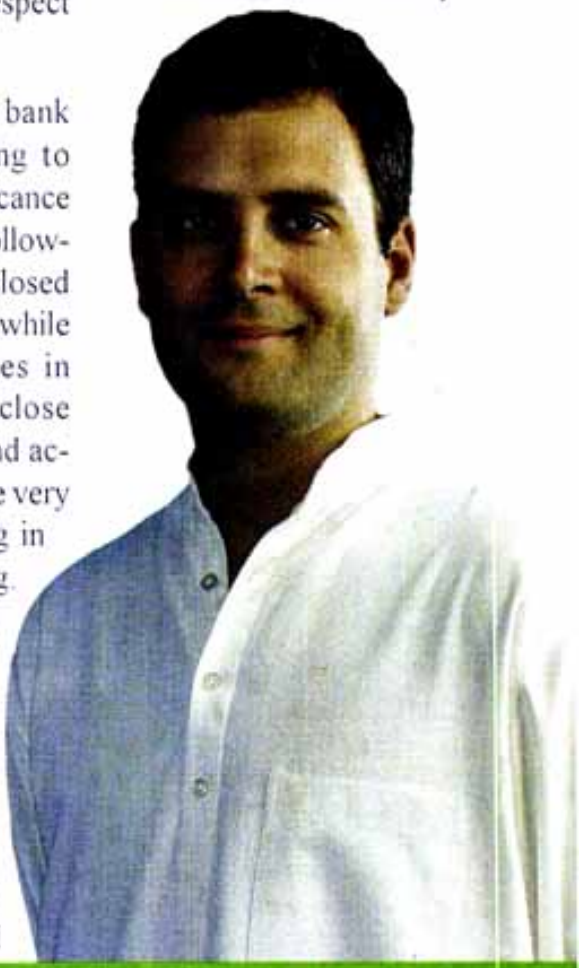
News Digest

Refugees from Tibet spread all over the world, staged demonstrations in most of the capital cities through which the Olympic Torch was carried before reaching Beijing. The peaceful demonstrations drew the attention of the world community towards aggression and domination of China over Tibet. A tremendous amount of sympathy for the Tibetan freedom struggle was created but China is not likely to respect world opinion.

The budget announcement of bank loan waiver for farmers amounting to Rs.60,000 crores pales into insignificance when compared to a report closely following it : 4,750 rural bank branches closed down during the past fifteen years while in the same period bank branches in metros doubled! Bank branches close down because of lack of business and accumulating losses. This highlights the very bad economic conditions prevailing in rural areas, while cities are thriving. Surely there has been a lopsided growth since independence in 1947. Our elected representatives should take stock of the situation and initiate remedial measures before it is too late.

Inflation reached an all time high of 7.1% resulting in price rise of all essential items. The Finance Minister is repeatedly assuring the public that everything possible is being done to bring down price levels. The Prime Minister has requested to opposition not to create a scare. But no opposition party will give up a chance to blame the government on such a vital matter hoping for a voter swing in its favour.

• "Don't call me Yuvaraj"



Priyanka Visits

The Hogenakkal drinking water supply project was agreed upon by Karnataka years back, when Tamilnadu gave its consent to the supply of drinking water to Bangalore city from river Kaveri. But recently when Tamilnadu began implementing the Hogenakkal project, there were violent protests by certain groups in Karnataka. There was some retaliation in Tamilnadu and finally Chief Minister Karunanidhi agreed to a request that the implementation of the project should be postponed till elections are over in Karnataka. However, will an elected government be able to convince agitators in Karnataka is anybody's guess.

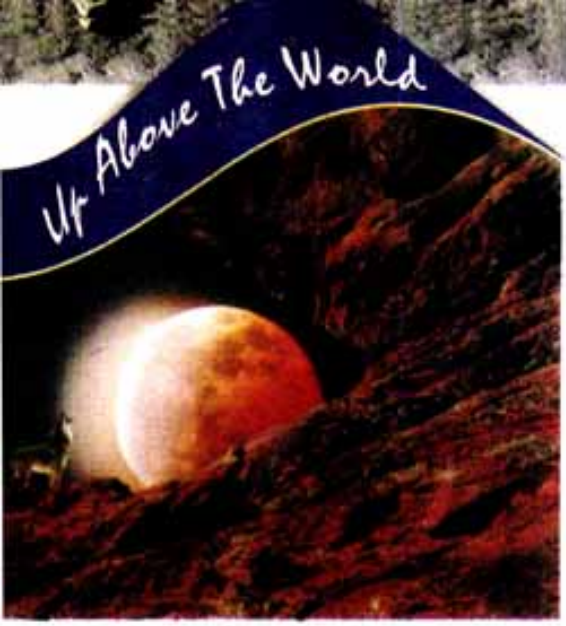
• Receives secret visitor

Priyanka visited Nalini, who has been jailed in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. Perhaps Priyanka wanted Nalini to understand that she has no hatred towards her and expected the same from Nalini and the LTTE towards her family. But her secret visit (it came to light later) discarding rules and regulations has set up a bad precedent. It should not be forgotten that fifteen others lost their lives when Rajiv was killed by a human bomb.

Rahul Gandhi has said that he does not like being addressed as "Yuvaraj". However, Arjun Singh and Pranab Mukherjee, senior Congress leaders have already projected him as the next Prime Minister. It is evident that a welcome arch has been set up and the red carpet is being unrolled. O

• "No hatred"

Nalini in Jail!



Destination:

Do you wish to walk on moon? Is it your dream to fly in a rocket? Do you wish to experience travelling in outer space? Wish no more. Now it can come true!

Russians are the leaders in a new industry called 'space tourism.' They have an International Space Station, many trained astronauts, experience in space exploration and rockets. But, the Russian space industry needs money to keep all this in place. Until recently, the government financed the space program. Here was a space program that needed money and there were people who were willing to pay lots of money to ride a rocket. Naturally, the two reached an agreement.

Toyohiro Akiyama, a Japanese reporter for Tokyo Broadcasting System lived in the space station for one week in 1990. For Akiyama, it was work as usual. He reported daily from the orbit and performed scientific experiments for the Japanese and Russian companies. Cost of the ride - $ 28 million! British weren't far behind. In 1991, they sent Helen Sherman, a chemist, to stay in Mir station for nine days. Unlike Akiyama, Helen trained to be an astronaut. She too conducted experiments and took observations.

It all changed in 2001 when the International Space Station began to accept private citizens. Dennis Tito, a multi-millionaire from California, USA, travelled to the space station on Soyuz aircraft. He stayed for 7 days, 22 hours, 4 minutes in space, orbiting earth 128 times. It probably cost him close to $20 million for the trip.

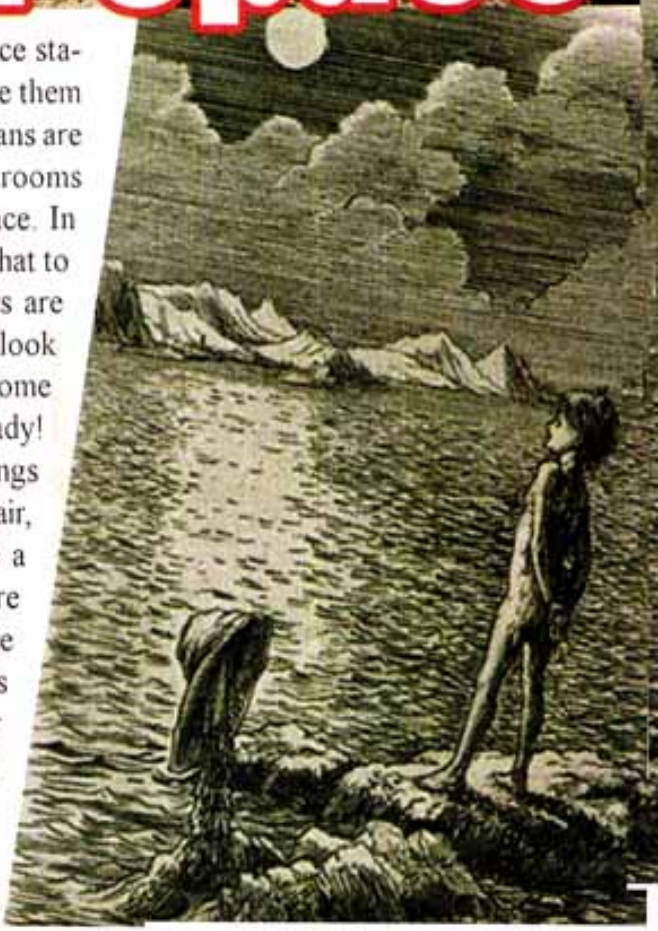
If people are going to be visiting

Rani Iyer

Outer Space

outer space in the future, space stations may not be able to house them all. Solution: A hotel! Americans are planning to build inflatable rooms and homes for staying in space. In case you are worried about what to wear, some fashion designers are working on clothes that will look good in weightless space. Some even have wedding gowns ready!

Still, we need a lot of things to 'live' in outer space. Food, air, water and entertainment are a few of them. Many areas are wide open and you can come up with one of the best ideas yet. Put on your lucky shirt (or shoes or skirt) and think of a brilliant idea. On it you can ride beyond your dreams and travel far beyond the clouds!



Viewpoint

There are already too many 'compulsory' subjects for children to struggle over. Making regional language a must will only increase their burden. It could be made compulsory only as a spoken skill - this would enable effective communication and also reduce the burden.

- Suklesh S.Rao, Std.IV, Ryan International School

Make it compulsory; but exempt children whose parents are frequently transferred.

- V.Sriram, Std.VIII, MES Kishora Kendra, Bengalooru

People should have a choice to study any Indian language. Our country is of different language traditions; but one culture.

- Chowdary Sparsa, Std.VII, K.V., Kolkata

Parents' transfers will make this study very challenging for the child. But, the more languages he learns, the better it would be for his personality development.

- Jayashree Raman, Std.XII, N.S Junior College, Mumbai

Knowing the regional language helps because it facilitates the teachers to clear doubts about other subjects by explaining in the local language.

- S.Manjupriya, Std.VIII, St. Joseph of Cluny, Pondicherry

MAKE LANGUAGE A

Don't make the regional language compulsory and penalise children whose parents are transferred often, across the country.

V.Varsha, Std.X, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kolkata; Rohan Singh Jain, Rohith Singh Jain, Std.V, St. Britto's Academy, Chennai; Ajit Rengaswamy, Std.IX, MCTMC MHSS, Chennai; Avilasha Sathpathy, Std.IX, K.V., Kalpakkam

Children who work hard can manage this sub-

ject but those who are already challenged and find the syllabus 'too much' will be in a tight spot with the additional burden.

- S.Sharadha, Std.VIII, DTEASSS, Janakpuri, New Delhi

Learning the regional language well is like having wings to fly in addition to hands! Justice Passayat said that resistance to learning the local language would not be in the interest of the country's unity. I agree with his view.

- S.Sharavathi, Std.XI, Dr.PGVMHSS, Coimbatore

PLEASANT EXPERIENCE!

When regional language also happens to be the mother tongue it is an honour and duty to learn it thoroughly. But for those whom it is not, the study becomes a burden. Such students could be exempted.

- Ranjani Suresh, Std.VII, PSBBSSS, Chennai - 78

Regional language could be made compulsory in early schooling (upto standard V) after which students should be given the choice of continuing.

- Varun Adishankar, Std.X, Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Hyderabad.

Yes: regional language study should be made compulsory because it enhances social skills and communication skills.

- M.S.Srinivas, Std.IX, TVSMHSS, Madurai; M.G.Manjari, Std.VIII, Montfort Centenary Academy MS, Palayaseevaram; R.Thanyapurani, Std.IX, Dr. P.G.V.M.H.S.S., Coimbatore; N.Akilandeswari, Std.VII, Vyasa Vidyalaya Matriculation, Chennai - 19; Manasa, Std.IV, Jnanodaya School, Bengalooru, S.Aditi, Std.IX, Bengalooru; S.Supraja, Std.VII, Bhavan's Sri Ramakrishna Vidyalaya, Secunderabad; R.Priya, Std.VIII, Tagore International, New Delhi; Manju Jayakumar, Std.XI, Vani Vidyalaya, Mumbai; Ajmal Pasha, Std.X, Sumathi Jain HS, Kolar; K.Karen, Std.IX, Nirmala MHSS, Chidambaram.

Learning the local language helps when we seek employment.

- G.Sailaxmi, Std.IX, Sri Sarada Matriculation School, Ariyakulam.

It is always interesting to learn a

Question for this month

Can Harbhajan Singh be allowed to play for India?

Send us your views by 25.5.2008. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs. 25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non- residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too. You can send entries by post or by e.mail (gokularn@kalkiweekly.com)

new language. It could be introduced as the third language in the syllabus.

- V.Mahalakshmi, Std.IX, AMC, Bengalooru.

We must protect our regional tradition and heritage by learning our regional language.

- S.Vinod, Bengalooru; H.Nafil Askar, Std.IX, Don Bosco MHS, Tanjore; E.Santosh Vamsi, Std.X, Vizag; Yazhini Anbumani, Std.VIII, Kalaimagal Kalvi Nilayam, Erode; Debasisha Panda, Std.IX, Sri Birupakhy High School, Bramhanapad, Orissa; Bijan Kumar Bandyopadhyay, Jubilee SS, Asansol.

Twenty three Indian languages are becoming extinct. Our regional languages must be given high importance in schools so that they will be cherished forever.

- C.V.Sruthi, Std.IX, Amritha Vidyalayam, Coimbatore

With the shift to western culture, regional languages are disappearing. Make any one of them a subject of study. Leave the choice to the student.

- B.Harish, Std.X, Sree Narayana Mission SSS, Chennai.

Proficiency in English alone helps during higher studies and research. No need to force the regional language.

- K.Charlin, Std.IX, Nirmala MHSS, Chidambaram

Make it compulsory; but offer a choice of regional languages to select from.

- B.Arulkevin Rayan, Std.VII, St. Patrick's AIHS, Chennai

Hindi, the official language and English the international language should be given importance. Regional language study need not be stressed.

- S.N.R. Aravindh, Std.IX, Erode Hindu Kalvi Nilayam MHSS, Erode

Clear knowledge of one's mother tongue is the foundation to learn other languages.

- L.V.Renukashri, Std.VI, Vijay Vidyalaya MHSS, Krishnagiri.

Istuti Sri Lanka!

• The Buddha's Tooth Temple and lake, Kandy

ICSQCC (International Convention of Quality Control Circles) is an organisation that conducts various competitions every year to enable Quality Education among young students. This year, I was selected for the poster painting competition held at Sri Lanka.

We boarded the flight at Trichy Airport. The flight experience was fantastic. We soon saw the pear-shaped island emerging from the massive ocean. At first sight, the city of Colombo looked like a twin of God's Own Country (Kerala). We were put up at a college hostel where children from all over the world who had come for the competition were staying.

The competition was held at the Isipathana College. There were other competitions held alongside ours – like Quality Circles, Skits, Debate and others. The events went on for three days.

We got to know our fellow participants and it felt good making friends from world over. The students of Isipathana College hosted us very warmly. After the competitions were over, we went sight-seeing in Colombo. We shopped at the huge malls and enjoyed the walk at the zoo, watched the elephant dance that is a highlight there.

On the way to Kandy, a hill station, we travelled through green tea estates. The aroma of tea

pervaded the tea factory we visited. We passed by the very beautiful Kandy Lake that adds beauty to the Temple of Buddha's Tooth which stands nearby. It is named Dalada Maligawa after the tooth of Buddha enshrined in it. We went shopping at Kandy after visiting the temple.

The next morning we visited Nuwara Eliya, a naturally beautiful space where we saw the Hanuman Temple and offered worship to Sita Devi at the temple at Ashoka Vana where she is believed to have been held captive by the King of Lanka – Ravana. After this, we made our way back to Colombo.

The smiling people, the pleasant atmosphere and the wonderful company of friends and teachers made the visit memorable. Istuti (thank you) Sri Lanka!

- Archana R, Std IX,
T. V. S. School, Madurai

Konark is 60km from the city of Bhubhaneshwar in Orissa. The 12th century Konark Sun temple is in ruins but each stone stands as a wonderful specimen of ancient architecture and sculpture. Indian mysthology depicts the sun as a God who rides in a chariot driven by seven horses. The Konark Sun temple represents this concept. It is a colossal chariot with twelve pairs of wheels

Smart Ones!

What do you call two Beetle babies fighting over a bottle of milk?

A Beetle Bottle Battle.

What do cats say when they want to out-doors?

Me-out!

How did Humpty Dumpty sunbathe?

Sunny-side up!

What do you call a funny book about eggs?

A yolk book!

- Ayush Muthukumar, Std V, CityInternational School, Pune

The Wheel of Time

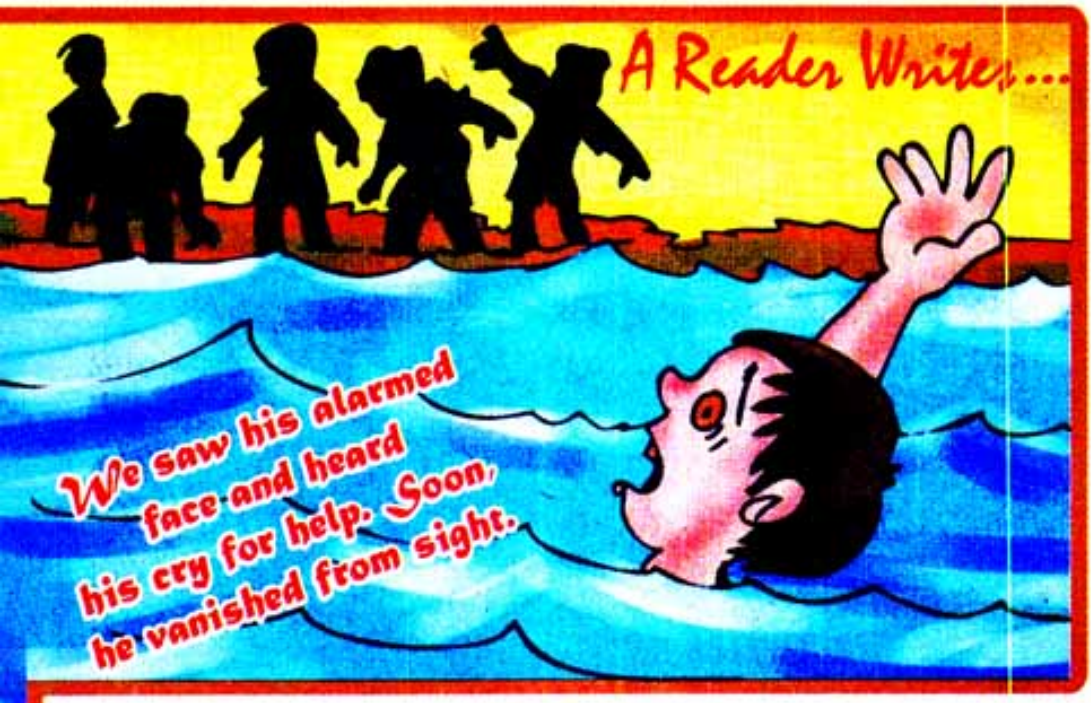
and seven horses, all so beautifully carved. Each wheel represents a fortnight and seven days of the week.

To manifest the different positions of the sun, each image of the Sun God has been arranged in such a way that each idol receives the rays of the sun at a different time of the day – dawn, noon and sunset.

Today the temple stands 2km from the sea but it was originally constructed on the shore of the Bay of Bengal by King Narasimha Dev. Inside the temple premises are other subsidiary shrines, one to Chayyadevi, the wife of the Sun God, whose name literally means 'shadow'.

This temple is a world heritage site in India and reminds the visitor that Kalinga, as Orissa was known, was rich in art and culture.

- K. Keerthana, Std IX, S. V. Union High School, Pune



BEACH

This happened when I was studying in the fifth standard. It was a pleasant day and our headmaster allowed us our lunch break early. Quickly finishing our meal, a group of us met to decide what to do since we had an hour and a half of break. We decided to go to the beach even though it was a strictly forbidden place to go to - banned by both our parents and the school authorities. So we crept out very furtively and we decided that if anyone asked, we would say we were going to the bazaar for purchases.

The sea was just half a kilometre from the school. The beach was empty, except for some fishermen cleaning their nets a distance away. The sea was calm and the waves were gentle. Tempted, we were soon standing in the waters, our feet washed by the waves. It was really thrilling since as the waves retreated, the sand under our feet would be washed away, making it difficult to maintain our balance. Soon, we forgot everything else in the fun of playing in the waves.

And then it happened! Our friend Raghunath lost his balance and was carried away by the retreating waves before we could even react. We saw his alarmed face and heard his cry for help. Soon, he vanished from sight.

We were panic-stricken. We took to our heels, leaving our friend to his fate and were back in school. It was a silent and panic-stricken group that returned. The next class began and Raghu was marked as absent in the attendance register. I could not concentrate in any of the classes.

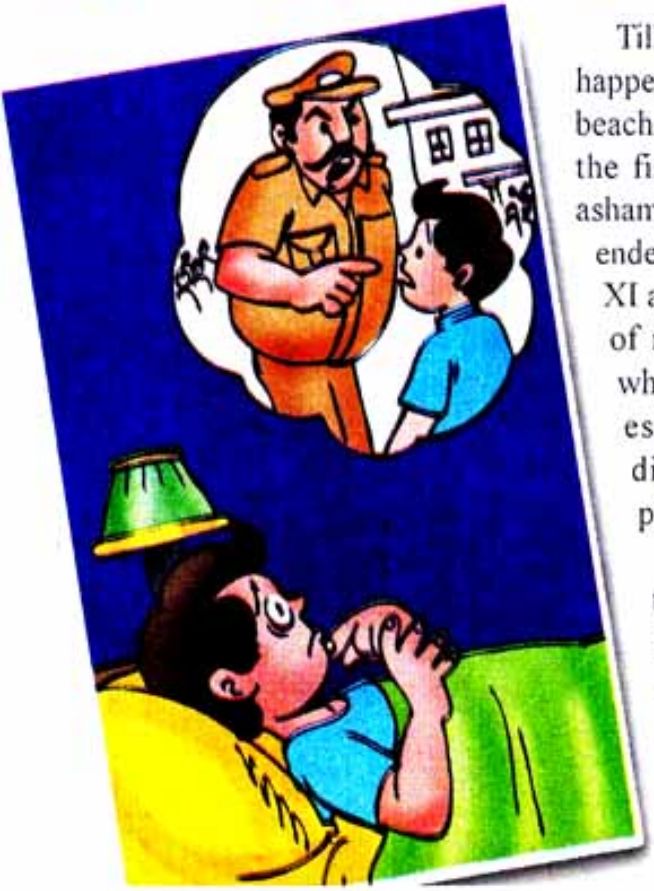
The six of us who had been part of the afternoon's escapade did not speak a word to each other.

As for me, my mind replayed the incident again and again. I could not eat properly and could not sleep that night. I imagined the boy's dead body lying on the shore, washed ashore by the waves. The police would come to school the next day and question us. We would be charged with murder. Would they drag us to the police station and cane us? These thoughts haunted me the whole sleepless night.

I felt lifeless the next morning. I left for school with a palpitating heart. What would be awaiting me there?

When I entered class, a shock awaited me. There was Raghunath sitting in his seat, checking his books which he had left back the previous day. I stood riveted in surprise. But I could not speak to him. I was afraid to even look at his face. The others who had been in the group the previous day did not dare to ask him either.

ESCAPADE



Till this day, I do not know what happened to Raghu after we left the beach. I assume he was rescued by the fishermen. I was completely ashamed and was relieved that all ended well. Now I am in standard XI and I am not in touch with any of my friends including Raghu, who had been part of the beach escapade. All have left for different schools in different places.

But this was an unforgettable incident, and a learning experience as well. For starters, I may never break a rule again, nor will I abandon a friend in distress.

- Abhishek V. Pai,
Std XI, Kollam

Summer Games

On Your Own!

Wonder what to do when it's blazing hot inside and you are stuck within your home with nothing to occupy yourself? Here are some fun ideas...

Create a work of art

Drawing, sketching and painting is a good way to occupy yourself. If you can go online, flip through sites that give you tips on drawing and how to improve your skills. You could resolve to create one nice painting that you could frame and gift to your parents by the end of the holidays.

Quiz Time

Have your parents buy you some quiz books (India's top quiz-masters like Sidharth Basu and Derek O'Brien have brought out quiz books). You can have your mother quiz you whenever she has the time and mark yourself for correct answers so that you know how much GK you need to improve. This could also be a group activity with friends – you can create a quiz group and host quiz afternoons. You and your friends can take turns to play quiz master and have the winner for each day take home a small gift or a chocolate.

Cookery group

If you and your friends are interested in food, this is a good time to improve your knowledge of cooking and food, with help from the parent at home of course. Pick up simple recipes from cook books and recipe sites that you can make at home and enjoy. Your friends and you could pool together to buy the ingredients and have a parent help you toss up the recipe. Your cookery group can meet at each friend's home in turn.

You will not only learn about different kinds of food and cooking but also can create a scrap book of recipes which will be useful to your mom when she has to make something interesting for you to eat too!

With friends

A Detective Group

Create a detective group among yourselves. Each person equips himself/herself with a notebook/ pencil and have observation activities every afternoon. Use a wide window or a balcony and each one positions themselves comfortably to watch what happens and note it down in the notebook. After half an hour of this exercise, compare notes to see who has been the most observant. This is a good way to improve not only your observation skills but to learn that the same scene, can be differently interpreted by different people!

- Sandhya Sridhar

Mother Tongue Helped!

Our school is in Bhubaneshwar, the capital of Orissa and is one of the leading institutions in the state. We have four 'houses' named after four of our famous Oriya Patriots - Gopabandhu Madhusudan, Godavarish and Mahatab. All four houses boast of enormously talented students.

Last August, our school conducted an inter-house competition, where we had to present a patriotic song. The winner would be decided by our Principal and an outside judge. I liked the concept and found it interesting so I approached my house team's captain to participate. I belonged to the Gopabandhu house and soon, we collected all our team mates and started practising the Chira Bandaniya, an Oriya song.

Our counterparts were rehearsing Hindi patriotic songs but we thought a song in our mother tongue would be apt.

Later, I overheard a group of children discussing the contest and saying that Godavarish and Gopabandhu, two of the houses, were not practising the songs as hard as the other two houses were. I myself was a little doubtful about how good we were and whether we would reach anywhere in the first three positions. We were practising very hard but to us, the songs of the other houses sounded better.

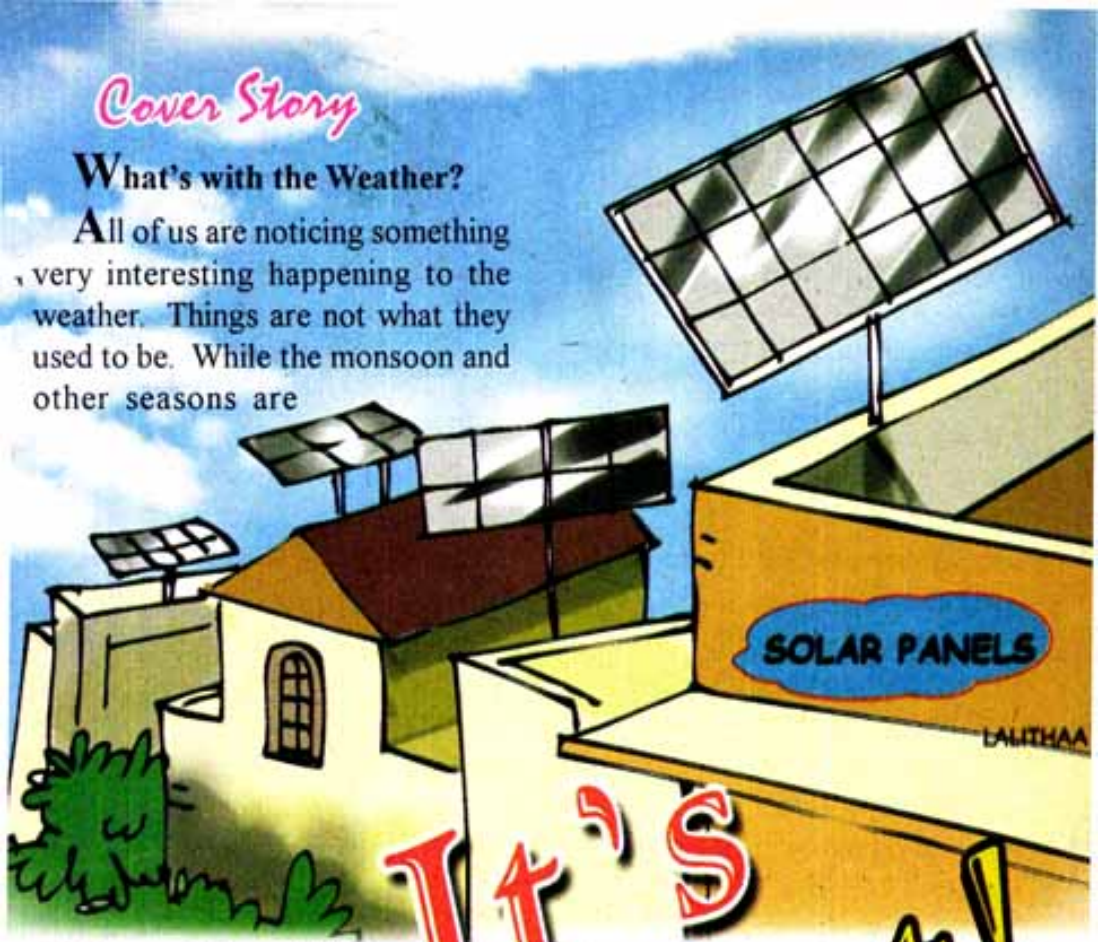
Then at last, it was D-day. When our turn came, we went to the stage and sang our song. All houses presented their renditions. Soon it was time to judge who was the best. And to our surprise, we were announced the winners.

The reason, said the judges, was that in spite of being an English medium school, we rendered an Oriya song well. That was one of the happiest days in my life. We felt good about ourselves indeed that day.

- Monalisa Padhy, Std. IX, Stewart School, Bhubaneshwar

Cover Story

It's Hot!



What's with the Weather?

All of us are noticing something very interesting happening to the weather. Things are not what they used to be. While the monsoon and other seasons are shifting subtly to different patterns, extreme weather aberrations are making life unpredictable along many coastlines – do you remember the tsunami and Hurricane Katrina? So what's with the weather?

It's Becoming Hotter

Global warming is the increase in the average temperature of the Earth's air and oceans – this has happened in recent years and scientists say that this trend will continue. The average temperature of air near the Earth's surface rose around .74 degrees centigrade in the last hundred years ending 2005. As you all know, this rise, is attributed to what is very commonly known as the 'greenhouse effect', a climate change that has been created by the way we humans are using the earth and natural resources.

The Greenhouse Effect

What does this term mean? Do you know what a greenhouse is? It is a large enclosure, usually made of glass and other materials, meant to trap the warmth of the sun so that

one can simulate warmer weather. This term was coined by Joseph Fourier in 1824, for he was the man who discovered this effect. In the normal course of things, the greenhouse effect helps warm the earth and make it habitable for human living. The major greenhouse gases are water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane and ozone. There are other gases that contribute in a smaller way to this effect.

But the problem occurs when human use increases the effect, thus increasing the overall warmth of the atmosphere close to the surface of the earth. One of the smaller, naturally occurring gases that contributes to this effect is nitrous oxide(N_2O), and this has now increased in concentration due to some of the things we humans do. Also, the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide and methane has been considerable since the industrial revolution that took place in the mid-1700s.

Deforestation at large globally, has affected the carbon dioxide levels in the last 20 years. As you must have studied in science, trees and forests help recycle oxygen and keep the carbon dioxide levels balanced.

How does this change my life?

Well, that's the big question and there is plenty of debate on how global warming affects us all on Planet Earth. One of the biggest problems, say scientists, is that more carbon di oxide and warmth causes more evaporation of water. As mentioned before, water vapour itself is a major greenhouse gas, and thus, the atmosphere becomes further warm, and the cycle continues, creating a much larger greenhouse effect.

As the earth becomes warmer, polar ice begins to melt. Sea levels rise, extreme weather events may take place, ecosystems see a shift in seasonal patterns and rainfall patterns – all this will lead to drastic impact on the way our world functions. As we all know, the climate we live in dictates the crops we grow, the food we eat and the way our economies function – all these will definitely be affected by changes in weather patterns.

The climate we live in dictates the crops we grow, the food we eat and the way our economies function - all these will definitely be affected by changes in weather patterns.

When extreme weather like hurricanes, drought, tsunamis,

cyclones, etc take place, life and living are affected as is property. This would mean that we humans now have to be prepared for such catastrophes and change the way we live – eg: live away from coasts, build hurricane-resistant structures, etc. Our rivers and lakes are vanishing, while melting permafrost in colder climes like Siberia, is creating new lakes!

The loss of glaciers in the Arctic and the Antarctic creates landslides, flash floods and glacial lake overflows. Snow covers on mountains vanish or melt away, feeding rivers until they run out of water. This is alarming news for rivers that are fed from the Himalayas or the Hindu Kush. A UN climate report says that Asia's biggest rivers - Ganges, Indus, Brahmaputra, Yangtze, Mekong, Salween and Yellow are fed by Himalayan glaciers – and these could disappear by 2035 as temperatures rise. About 2.4 billion people live in the drainage basin of the Himalayan rivers. The countries of India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar could face floods and droughts in the years to come. In our country alone, the Ganges is the source for water for the drinking and farming needs of more than 500 million people! Thus, populations that depend on rain or river irrigation for their agricultural requirements

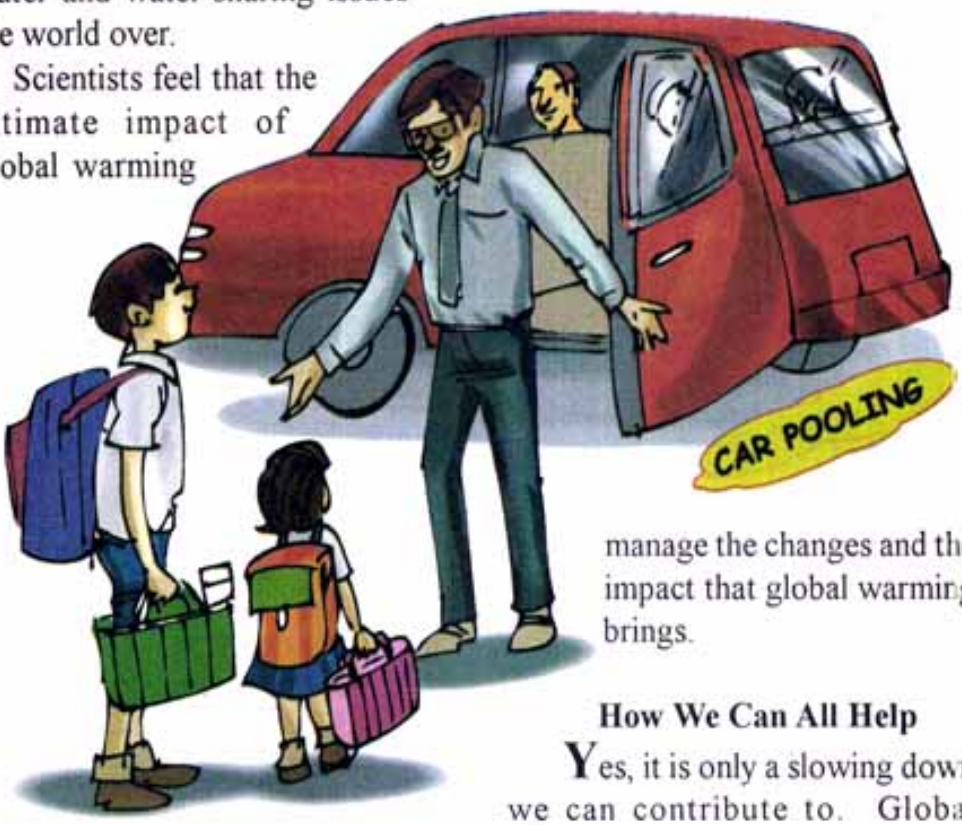
could be the worst affected.

What Will Happen?

Political conflicts arise out of water and water-sharing issues the world over.

Scientists feel that the ultimate impact of global warming could be the mass extinction of a huge number of species in plants and animals.

Poor countries will struggle to manage the changes and the impact that global warming brings.



How We Can All Help

Yes, it is only a slowing down we can contribute to. Global

Customer: Do you have running shoes?
Shopkeeper: We don't sir. They are all sitting quietly in one place.

- Shalini Srinivasan, Std VI, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bangalore.

Aplicant: So, how long are the hours?
Employer: Just 60 minutes each.

- S. Varun, Std V, Mumbai

warming is well entrenched, a much-debated reality we all need to cope with. What we do not need to do, is make things worse, by accelerating the pace of the warming and contributing to drastic changes. So how can you and I help?

Make recycling a part of your life. Don't waste paper and reduce use of plastic.

Be careful in your use of water. Dripping taps, leaking pipes all contribute to water wastage.

Plant trees where you can maintain and help them grow.

What we do not need to do, is make things worse, by accelerating the pace of warming and contributing to drastic changes.

Walk, cycle, car pool or use the public transport. Each one of us taking out our individual cars and bikes only add to the emissions into the atmosphere, not to mention the tonnes of petrol or diesel that we use up.

Change your ordinary bulbs to power-savers.

Turn of your television, computers and other electronic devices when not in use.

Spread the word and form an eco-society that cares, in your building or neighbourhood.

- Sandhya Sridhar

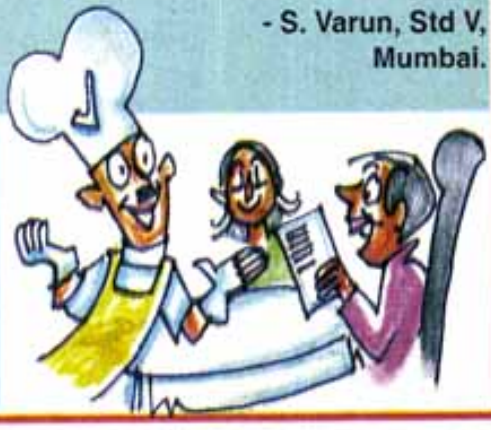
Cover Design: **Lalitha**

A ship is going to sink.
Captain: Does anyone know how to pray?
A man comes forward: I know
Captain: Okay then, you pray while we put on our lifebelts. We are one short.

- S. Varun, Std V, Mumbai.

Customer(looking at the menu): Why do you call it gold soup?
Bearer: Sir, it has 24 carrots.

- C Pavan Kumar, Std IX, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Public School, Hyderabad.



Grandma worm

Dear Grandma,

I am very fat. I am frequently teased in school. Can you suggest some way for me to lose weight?

- N. R. Sriram, std VIII, Sri Kumaran Public School, Bengalooru

Dear Sriram,

First you must understand the reason why you are over-weight. Does excess weight run in your family? If it does, then you must consult a good doctor who would prescribe an ideal fat-free diet and an exercise regimen. If it does not, and your weight is because of your lifestyle (ie. Snacking frequently, eating fried foods, too much of rich sweets, etc) you know the answer. Be strict about your mealtimes, eat nutritious, fat-free food (our South Indian diet is excellent for this) and cultivate some sport for exercise. If you are in the habit of eating or sitting before the television for too long, control this habit and regulate your sedentary time.

It also could be that at this age, you may have what they call 'puppy fat' which you will surely shed as you grow older. Talk to your parents about this and have their opinion too. As for your friends teasing you, ignore it. A good friend who likes you and understands you will never do anything to hurt you.

Who is a best friend? How can we know that someone is a good friend?

- Harshita V. D. Bhavani Shree, Vellore

Are You Still A

Dear Harshita,

This is a difficult question to answer but nevertheless let me try. A good friend is someone who you can share a lot of things with and who will not judge you but will accept you for what you are.

A good friend will also stand by you and support you through your bad times; will help you without a second thought whenever you need it. Remember, friendship goes both ways - you should be all of the above and more for your good friend as he/she is to you.

Baby to do this ?

Grandma, my parents sometimes tell me, "Why did you do this? Don't you have any sense? Are you still a baby to do this?" etc. Sometimes they tell me, "You are still only a baby and you think you can do anything." What can I do about this?

- P. S. Akshaya, Std VIII, Sri Sarada Secondary School, Chennai 86

Dear Akshaya,

My advice to you will be to just sit down and talk it out with your parents. They may not really be realising they are doing this. To them, you are their child and in some ways, their 'baby'. But you are also growing up and they want you to realise that too, and that's why they tell you, "...are you still a baby?"

Talk to them and tell them that this does confuse you. Don't fight with them about this – I used to do this sometimes with my children too when they were growing up! Finally, I had to learn not to say it – and as a parent, we are learning too in a continuous way, to be better parents!

These days my academic performance has gone down drastically. I really don't know what to do. Please grandma

help me.

- Venkat

Dear Venkat,

I understand what you must be feeling. It must be very hard to get lower marks than you have been usually getting. Are you able to concentrate on your studies? Is something worrying you? Are you finding it difficult to manage time to study?

Think about all this – and you must calm yourself as you analyse why exactly your marks are going down. Perhaps you should talk to a parent about this. They may be able to tell you what exactly is going wrong. Remember Venkat, it's not always that you get high marks. The low marks you have got have to help you strive to do better next time.

I am twelve years old but I am so lean that my friends call me skeleton. I don't know how to increase my body weight. Can you suggest something to improve my weight and my body?

- R. Navin, Std VII, Kalpakkam

Dear Navin,

As I have explained to Sriram, perhaps being lean runs in the family. If it does not, then it could be the fact that you are in a growing age and you have a faster metabolism than others and you burn up your energy quicker and thus remain thin. I remember I was skinny too when I was your age and continued to be that way until I became forty years old!

I hope you eat well and that you eat the right things – fresh fruit, salads and plenty of vegetables with your meals. Also, cultivate an exercise regimen that will keep your body fit and healthy – and you may just find yourself putting on a little more flesh and muscle.

Love,

Grandmaworm

Fact File

The Indian Railways carries more than 22 million passengers every day. More than 11,000 trains run every day. It also carries over 1.1 millin tonnes of freight every day.

The American Museum of Natural History in New York is the biggest museum in the world. It has 19 buildings with 93,000 square metres of floor space. It was founded in 1874.

First Footware!

The Persians (now Iranians) were playing Polo as early as 525 B.C., while in England, the game was first played in 1869.

The 'zodiac' means 'circle of living things'. This is why most of the twelve constellations or 'group of stars' were named after living things.

The Indians of the Amazon valley in Brazil used to slash wild rubber trees and allow the milky juice to flow upon their own naked feet. After several coatings had covered their entire feet, they would allow the milky juice to dry in the sun. The dry foot covering was then peeled off and used as shoes!

Compiled from G. K. books by
Manjari M. G., aged 14,
Monfort Centenary Academy
Matriculation School, Palayaseevaram.

Trade with Britain flourished during the reign of Karthika Thirunal Rama Varma, Maharaja of Travancore in 1750 A.D. The raja ordered a lighthouse to be built to help boost trade and help guide ships coming to the harbour.

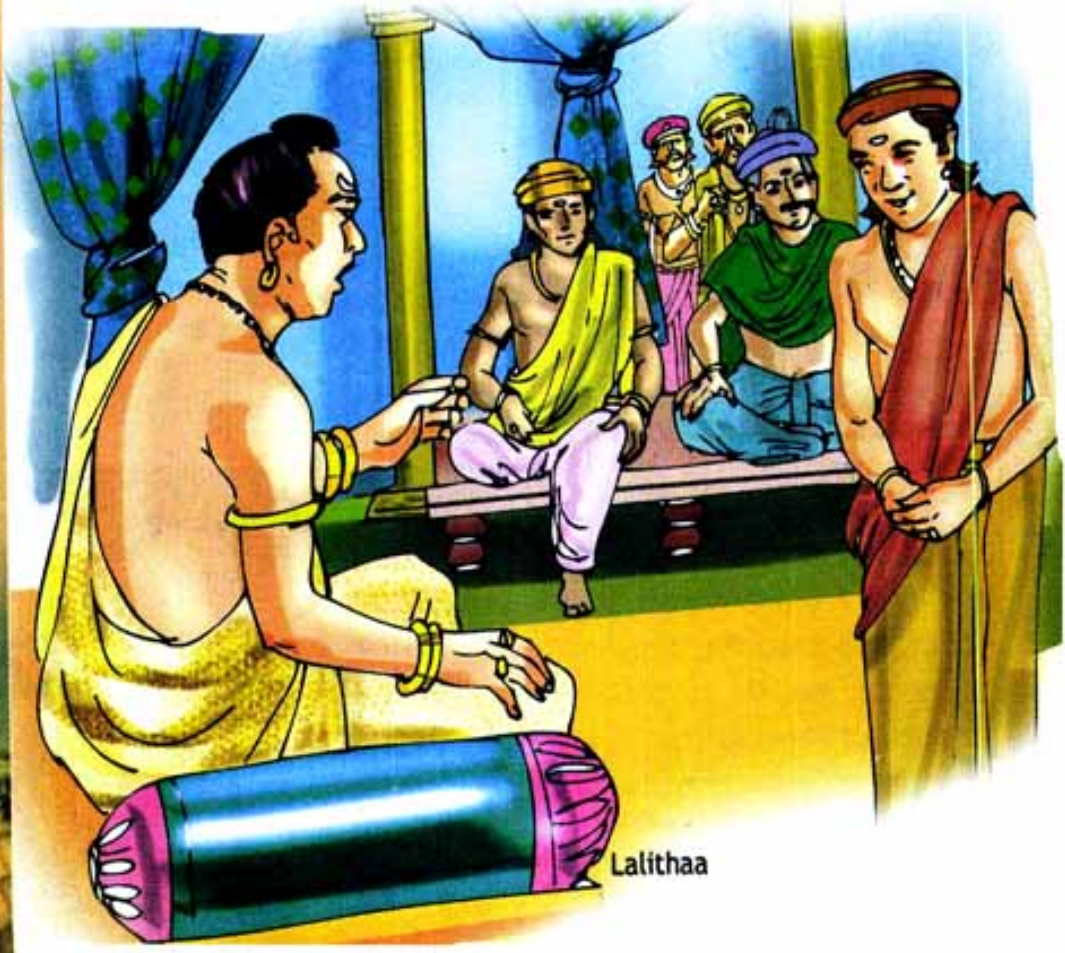
The lighthouse was built in a short span of time and the Maharaja asked his courtiers to write a poem on the lighthouse. A prize money of 100 gold coins was announced by him for the best poetry.

The response to the competition was overwhelming. Many poets wrote in length on the lighthouse, praising the ingenuity of the king

Kunjan Nambiar, a poet, felt that the entire episode was to satisfy the ego of the vain king and thought, "This is a good way to make some quick money. So might as well write to do this." He composed a simple couplet which meant:

"The lighthouse is fantastic,
But I also want money."

The raja appreciated Nambiar's wit and satire and



Lalithaa

RAT TRAPPED BY CAT!

handed over the prize money to him!

Kunjan Nambiar came from humble beginnings. He was only an assistant to a scholar who gave discourses on the puranas. Once, he was snubbed by his master and began giving discourses on his own. He went to a nearby temple and began his own discourse. But seeing that there was no audience, he began yelling at the top of his voice, "IIIIIIIIIoooooooo". On hearing this commotion, people gathered around him. Then Nambiar began his discourse, beginning with the statement, "This was how Surpanaka, who had her nose cut by Lakshmana came shouting to her brother Ravana!"

Once, he was snubbed by his master and began giving discourses on his own.

He was also the pioneer of 'ottam thullal', a dance drama pertaining to folklore and mythology. The raja once decided to attend one such dance drama, when he heard of Nambiar's lucid expositions. On seeing the pale blue eyes of the raja, the impish Nambiar said, "Here is a cat among the audience." The raja kept quiet but he summoned Nambiar to the court the next day.

When Nambiar arrived at court, the raja sternly said, "You called me a cat yesterday in the ottam thullal. How do you feel today, in court?" Nambiar laughed and replied, "I feel like a rat trapped by a cat." The raja and his court burst into laughter. The raja rewarded Nambiar generously for his sense of humour.

Nambiar became to the raja, what Akbar was to Birbal. There are many stories in Kerala, about the wit and sense of humour of Kunjan Nambiar. ○

R.Ramdas Thampuran

Story

A Loving

"Hey, you! Gimme that!" shouted Becca.

"Get it if you can you little brat!" teased Eric, as he raised the chocolate higher, and out of reach.

Becca and Eric were cousins. Eric visited her sometimes and this was one of those times. Eric was sixteen and Becca was fourteen. Eic loved to tease his cousin and that was what he was doing now. Since he was the taller of the two, he was having a happy time teasing until…

"Eric, give her that chocolate," scowled his aunt.

"Alright auntie," said Eric, who gave the chocolate to Becca who promptly put it in the fridge.

"You meanie," sniffed Becca, "Why do you do this to me?"

"Hey come on!" protested Eric, "I am your brother. If I don't tease you, who will? It is my duty." He grinned.

Eric was affectionate to Becca but he was the Big Brother, right? And you know Big Brothers have to tease their sisters.

Then one day, the two were returning from the market. Becca walked ahead as usual on the busy street when she suddenly stepped on a stone and fell. Since the road was narrow, a speeding motorcyclist, busy talking on his mobile, was heading towards where she had fallen.

In a flash, Eric grabbed Becca by her ankle and pulled her away from harm. But in the process, he fell forward and the motorcyclist sped into him.

At that crucial moment all Eric could remember was Becca's voice shouting, "Eric, Eric! Someone help!" He also felt an excruciating pain in his leg. Then all went dark.

"Eric, Eric, can you hear me?" Eric heard someone call out his name and opened his eyes. He was in a hospital. Beside him were Becca, his aunt and his mom.

"Oh, thank god you are

Brother!

alright," his aunt said, tears in her eyes, "Becca told us what happened. Thank you very much dear."

His aunt continued, "It was a hit and run accident. The man went over both your legs. They are fractured and you have to be here for at least three months. The doctor has given you a pain reliever and a hypodermic. But it is alright dear. You will be fine."

Eric looked at Becca. She was looking at him with sad but fond eyes. As he looked at her, tears began flowing down her cheeks and she said, "Thank you Eric."

"Hey," he managed to say, "It is my duty!"

- M. B. Ezhil Raja, aged 15,
St John's Senior Secondary School,
Chennai

Activity

I) Quick Quiz

1. Who invented the vacuum cleaner?
2. Who invented the electric iron?
3. Which German scientist invented the fluorescent light?
4. What did George R. Carruther of America invent?
5. The electro microscope was invented by....
6. Who invented the drinking straw?
7. Who invented the pencil eraser?
8. Who invented the first electronic television?
9. Who invented the Compact Disc?
10. Who invented the artificial heart?

- Raghavendra M.Bhat, Hubli

II) It's a Riddle!

1. A father's child, a mother's child, yet no one's son.
2. One who passes before the sun yet has no shadow.
3. A hole leading to a hole leading out, we connect to a cavern that is slimy all through.

- Sheethal R. Holla, aged 11, Jothy Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bengalooru

I) Quiz Answers

1. Ives W. McGaffey. 2.Henry W. Seeley. 3.Edmund Germer. 4.Spectograph. 5.Ernst Ruska. 6.Marvin Stone. 7.Hyman Lipman. 8.Vladimir Kosma Zworykin. 9.James T. Russel. 10.Willem J. Kolff

II)Answers to Riddles

1.Daughter. 2.Wind. 3.Our nostrils

Stay Indoors!

In the next two pages, you will find an exciting game for summer. Here's how you put it together.

1. Pull out the next two pages from the centre, staple carefully, without tearing the sheets or loosening the staple. Take an adult's help to do this if necessary.

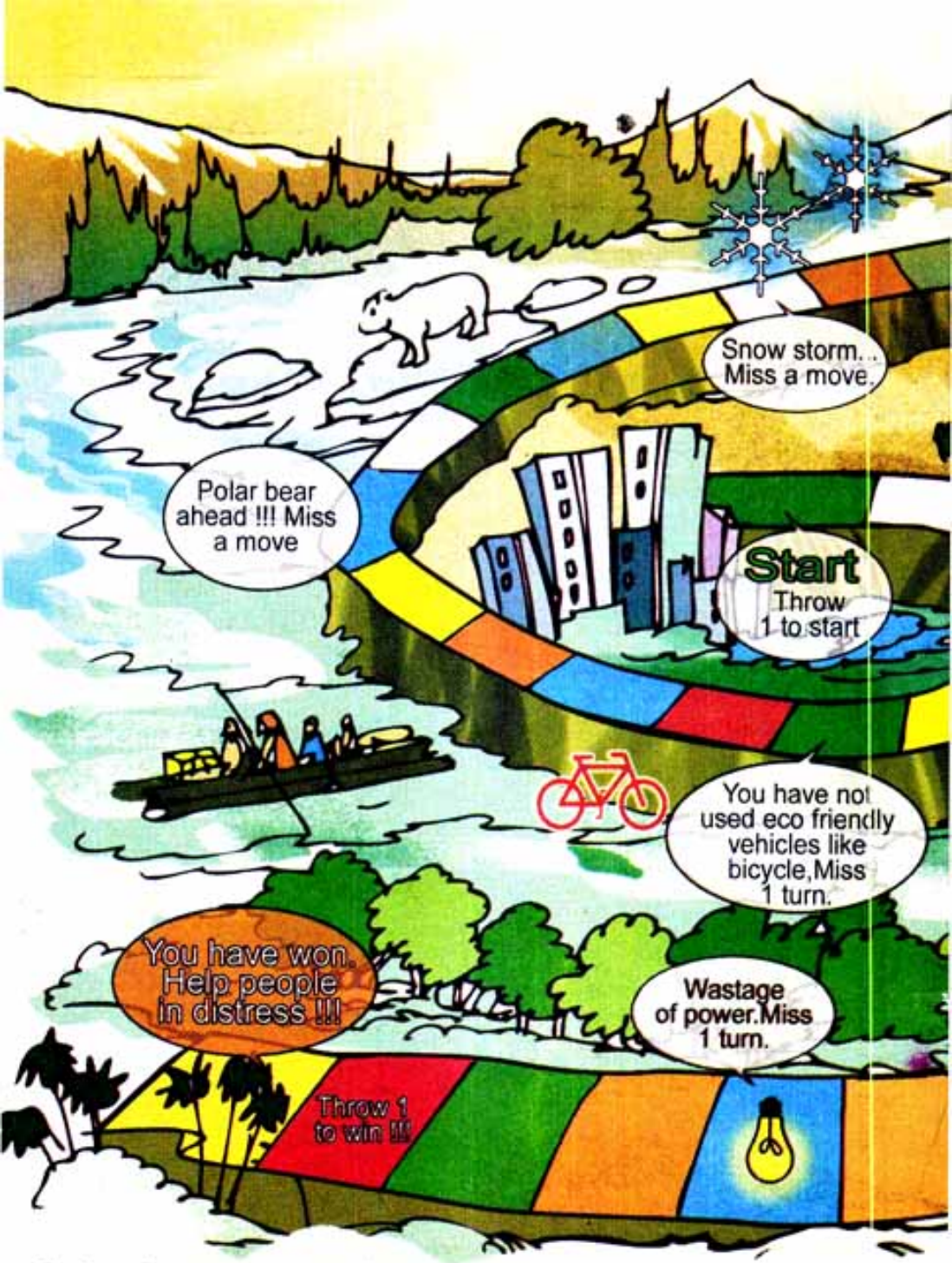
2. Paste this on a waste sheet or hardboard (a saree box or any other packaging would do) with some good glue.

3. Allow to dray and cut out the hardboard to fit the size of the game board.

4. For counters, you may use anything from beads to seeds from different plants.

5. A dice is in order – borrow it from any other game you own or buy it separately from a nearby gift store.

Your game is ready and have fun playing it!



2 ,3 or 4 persons can play this game. You may use differently-coloured counters and dice for this game.The first one to reach will be the winner.

This game has been designed to set you thinking about the looming danger,GLOBAL WARMING and what you children can do to protect our planet earth...

GLOBAL WARMING

Designed and illustrated by Lalithaa

Serial Chapter -VI

For once nobody was in a mood to talk and the very thought of the masked attackers sent a shiver down their spines. A couple of guys from the housekeeping department arrived to lend them a helping hand and handed them the keys to Cottage. No. 10.

"Even these fellows look suspicious now," Emilda whispered to Jassy as she took the keys, "Behind the mask it can be anybody."

"You are right, we can't rule out any possibilities," Jassy observed as she gaped at the retreating men, "But I can assure that the guy who attacked me was much taller and burlier."

"Yes, both were strong men," Rajeev agreed shutting the door and facing the rest of the group, "If Jassy had not managed to escape, God knows what they'd have done to us."

"But then, why did they have to attack you in the first place?" Anik began racking his brains like Sherlock Holmes. "Were they the same guys who came last night to Cottageno.13 or were these different?"

"And how about the shadow Jassy saw yesterday?" Sonali pointed out, "Was that also a coincidence?"

"Probably yes, probably not," Anik mused, "We'll wait and see what'll happen next."

"What do you mean by that?" Raksha raised her brows, fear creeping into her eyes. "Now that we have moved out of Cottage no. 13, nothing will happen next, believe me."

"Ah, I swear!" Varun opened his mouth for the first time that evening, "How can anything happen when I am next door?"

"Be a little serious Varun," Raksha looked annoyed.

"You know I've told you all before," the boy yawned lazily, "I can be anything but serious."

"Those masked fellows should have attacked you, then

Cottage Number 13

you'd have known," Raksha stated impatiently.

"Wish they had!" the impudent boy stretched himself casually once more and before the girls could begin their accusation, he turned to his fellow mates and added with a long yawn.

"Come on boys, let's get going and tell me is it necessary to go for those boring heritage walks? Can't we go camping instead?"

"Ah, now, you are too much Varun," Sonali sounded irritated, "Remember you are on a cultural exchange programme and not on an adventure spree."

"Thanks for reminding Miss East," the boy added jestingly, "The next vacation I'll be there in Assam mind you and we both will go camping and

trekking and frolicking up and down the Himalayas, what say?"

The pretty Assamese couldn't help smiling and all she could mutter was, "You are welcome. In fact you all are welcome."

"Ah done!" Varun instantly jumped off his seat, "The next vacation for all of us —courtesy, the beautiful Sonali Lakhar!"

"And now goodnight pretty women," he added quickly, "See you all safe and sound in the morning."

"Oh gosh, that Varun is too much to handle sometimes," Sonali blushed as she gaped at the retreating figure of the jovial boy, "You just can't get away trying to prove your point."

"He's quite a joker," Emilda said with amusement, as the boys left for the cottage next door, "I like his company."

"Yes, he can easily dilute any sombre situation," Sonali agreed, "You just can't be serious with him."

"All said and done he can even come knocking at our cottage door in the middle of the night," Raksha pointed out, still annoyed, "Just to prove that I'm wrong in my prophecy of No.13."

"Let the whole world come knocking I'm not going to get disturbed tonight," Jassy announced in cool demeanour as she flung herself onto her bed, "I'm too exhausted to even speak the next word." And she dozed off.

"Wonder how she can stay so calm after all that has happened to her," Emilda observed, "She is really a girl with guts I must say."

"Of course. Of course," the other two agreed.

Meanwhile, at the boys' cottage, as Rajeev was changing over to his night garments he fished out the piece of checkered material he had managed to tear from the attacker's shirt pocket.

He was about to fling it away when Suresh grabbed it with interest.

"Hey, these red and black checks look interesting," he said, "Where did you find them?"

"This is the shirt the guy who attacked me was wearing," Rajeev explained, "I was clinging on to him as he pulled away and the piece tore off."

"Let's retain the cloth," Suresh suggested, "Who knows it might serve as a clue."

"But where will you go around looking for a guy in red and black checked shirt?" Varun said lazily,

"Morever there may be several men wearing the same shirt, like a uniform you see."

"Anyway, don't throw it away," Anik instantly said, "I don't see how it's going to help, but then we'll still keep it."

"By the way Rajeev," he added fishing out a notepad and pen, "Were both the attackers wearing the same mask?"

"I'm not sure about the one who attacked Jassy," Rajeev tried to recollect, "But the one who pounced on me had a weird looking mask, that of a demon you find in the mythological stories — blood red eyes and tusker-like teeth protruding from either side of the mouth."

I`m beginning to feel that all is not well for Jassy.

"Ah, that must have been real scary," Suresh said, "But tell me, how did they guess that you and Jassy would be going to Cottage No.13? Do you think they were lurking somewhere at the backstage and followed you both as soon as you left?"

"No, we did not hear any footsteps following us," Rajeev clarified, "Those guys were definitely hiding near Cottage.no13 and waiting for us to....."

He paused for a while before coming closer to the boys and added in a whisper, "You know, I have a vague feeling that those masked men were only interested in this person whom they knew would come to Cottage no 13 this evening after the show."

"Who?" the boys had their brows raised in excitement.

"I can't vouch for sure but then I have a strong hunch that it's Jaspreet."

"What?" the other three including the sleepy Varun exclaimed in one voice.

"Yes, I didn't want to say it before the girls but then the more and more I ponder on the possibilities, the more and more I'm beginning to feel that all is not well for Jassy."

"You see it was Jassy in the first instance who saw the shadows following her," he continued, "And once Varun appeared on the scene the shadows just disappeared. And then last night it was Jassy who heard the sound of the keys being turned and as soon as she woke up Emilda and the girls began questioning, the intruders had disappeared.

"And then, this evening as soon as Jassy escaped, the attackers left me just like that and ran away," Rajeev concluded with a grave sigh, "If they had been keen to capture me

or hurt me, they could have easily carried out their task but then no, they just disappeared from the scene. So, you see, it's not Cottage no13 that's jinxed as Raksha feared, it's Jassy who's at risk."

"Omigosh!" that's quite a theory!" Anik instantly noted down the points, "Target —Jaspreet Kaur. Reason — Unknown. Culprits — To be caught soon."

"What do we do next, shall we call up and inform Partha Sir?" Suresh thought aloud.

"We will inform him tomorrow," Rajeev said glancing at his watch, "It's twelve already and not advisible to disturb him now."

"But how about the girls?" Varun sprang out of bed and slipped into his slippers, "Shall I go and tell them right away? Knock, Knock and give them a little jolt."

"Don't Varun!" the other three said in one voice, "Let's not spoil their peace of mind."

"But then Jassy needs to be warned as soon as possible."

"Yes, but then we can wait for tomorrow."

As the boys wound up and the last of the lights were switched off, in the near vicinity, two demon faced masks were flung aside with aggravation and fresh plans were being made for the next move.

The next morning when the boys and girls gathered at the reception, Parthasarthy was already speaking to the driver of the S.U.V. waiting outside.

"So, you all slept well?" he asked with cheer in his voice, "Now get into the van quickly. We'll have to hit the city before the traffic sets in."

"Shall we tell him about our deductions of the mystery?" Varun whispered restlessly.

"No, not now!" Rajeev was firm. "Let's first get out of this place, wait for him to be all alone and then speak out. Let him decide whether it's advisible to warn Jassy or not."

The others agreed with Rajeev as they followed the girls to the van.

(To be continued)

Cuisine Corner

Mozzarella Toast

You need

100 gm butter, 1 tsp chopped garlic, 1 tsp chopped herbs like parsley or coriander, Salt to taste, Freshly ground black pepper, 1 tbsp chopped spring onions, 200 gm mozzarella cheese, thinly sliced, a loaf of fresh bread.

How to make it

Slice the bread 1" thick. Grill on one side only. Beat the butter with the garlic, herbs, salt and spring onion.

Spread this mix over the untoasted side of the bread. Cover with slice of cheese. Place under a pre-heated grill and allow the cheese to melt. Serve hot.

- S. Varsha, Std VIII,
R. N. Podar School, Mumbai

The Art of

In our school Shiksha Kendra, we have an Art of Living class every Saturday. In this, two hours of class we have warm-up exercises, pranayama, yoga and meditation which releases our stress and keeps our mind cool, calm and fresh. We feel fully energised then to attend to our studies again.

Ensuring Attendance !

It was after the autumn break and as usual, school began. After the morning prayers, all students dispersed to their respective classes. The leaders in our class used to distribute test note books from the safe cupboard when required.

Once while our leader was about to open the cupboard, he noticed that a pigeon had created a nest on top of the cupboard and had laid eggs as well. As he exclaimed aloud, all the students gathered around in excitement to see the live pigeon. Hearing the commotion, our class teacher came in. Some students said, "Ma'am, we will remove the nest immediately."

But our class teacher calmed the class at once and said, "Birds are part of our eco system and so we should not harm them in any way." Since then, the pigeons and its hatchlings are registering a hundred percent attendance to our class and ensuring our attendance too!

- R. Harish,
Std V, Air Force School,
Hebbal,
Bengalooru.

Living

Our ma'am makes the class very interesting and playful and tells us a lot of Sri Sri Ravishankar's messages, that are thought-provoking and easy to implement. Our teacher's voice is soft and soothing and we leave the class with a relaxed mind and a smile on our faces.

- J. Vishnu, Shiksha Kendra, Std IX, Vellore

Pride in our School

Our school celebrated its golden jubilee year on 14th March 2008. Many VIPs like our MLA, the school president and other well-known political figures of our city came to attend. I was extremely surprised to hear that the former president of India, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam had sent a message to our school, that appreciated the work done by the staff and management.

Everyone who attended, liked the programme because of the efforts our staff took. I was very happy to be part of this programme, the likes of which I have never seen before in my student life. This was later reported in many newspapers and I truly felt pride in my school's achievements.

- Ajmal Pasha, Std X, Sumathi Jain High School, Kolar

Name: **M.Manoj**
Age : 15
Address : 17D/1. Gandhi Nagar 3rd Cross, Bellary, Karnataka.

Hobbies : Reading general knowledge books, current affairs, monthly magazines, playing chess, cricket and badminton, listening to music.

Name: **D. Bhavani Shree**
Age : 11
Address : No. 3, 3rd Cross Street, Vadevel Nagar, Sankaranpalayam, Vellore.

Hobbies : Painting, drawing, table tennis, shuttle cock, reading books.

Name: **R. Harshitha**
Age : 11
Address : No. 10, 3rd Cross Street, Vadevel Nagar, Sankaranpalayam, Vellore.

Hobbies : Playing games like badminton, basketball, reading books etc.

Name: **B. Swetha**
Age : 11
Address : No.41, Melarani Street, Thiruchirappalli - 620 008.

Hobbies : Dancing, drawing, collecting old coins, playing shuttle, making new friends, playing computer games, reading magazines, setting my cupboard, playing cards.

Name: **P.S.Akshaya**
Age : 12
Address : 14/19, Narayani Apartments, Sringeri Mutt Road, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai - 28.

Hobbies : Singing, dancing, drawing, reading story books.

Name: **L.S. Anusha**
Age : 11
Address : 112-A, Anushree, 8th Cross Thalagatpura Layout, Paramount Garden, Kanakapura Road, Bengalooru - 560 062.

Hobbies : Singing, dancing, drawing, creating new poems, reading books as well as story books, preparing juice and food, painting, playing etc.

Name: **Deepthi Ramesh**
Age : 12
Address : 9, 2nd Cross Street, Dr.Radhakrishnan Nagar, Chennai - 600 041.

Hobbies : Reading novels, thriller, mystery stories, surfing the net, going out with friends, cycling, playing video games and watching T.V.

Name: **M. Sandeep**
Age : 17
Address : Milt Residential School, Old Vishnu Sadan, Simultala P.O., Jamui Dist., Bihar - 811 316.

Penpals

Hobbies : To make friends, games - cricket, football, T.T., volley ball, books - Harry Potter, Gokulam, Tinkle etc.

Name: **V.Rajesh**

Age : 18

Address : Std. XII, Milt Residential School, Simultala P.O., Bihar - 811 316.

Hobbies : Reading suspense books, listening to music, making penpals, playing cricket.

Name: **Manjunath Pujari**

Age : 15

Address : Milt Residential School, P.O. Simultala, Bihar - 811 316.

Hobbies : Reading Harry Potter, making friends, playing cricket, table tennis, cycle riding.

Name: **S.Poornapriya**

Age : 11

Address : 487/C, 46th street, Opp. to Manthope Colony, Ashoknagar, Chennai - 83.

Hobbies : Reading Harry Potter books, listening to music, chatting with friends, surfing the net, watching TV, collecting Harry Potter pictures.

Name: **IM. Neelima**

Age : 12

Address : Basaveshwar Nagar, 8th Cross, 1 Main, Bellary, Karnataka.

Hobbies : Singing, dancing, reading Gokulam, cycle riding, reading Harry Potter books.

Name: **A.G. Pallavi**

Age : 12

Address : M.V.Nagar, 5th Cross (right), Kappagal Road, Bellary - 583 103.

Hobbies: Reading books, collecting different types of money of different countries and collecting tickets.

Essay

Pugmarks will be

Picture this. In the future, you will be seeing tigers only in picture books or encyclopaedias, history museums or on wildlife channels - not in national parks or wildlife sanctuaries! Well, that is imminent considering the large scale poaching that is going on, adding one more animal on the ever-growing extinct animals list – the tiger.

It is shocking and appalling to know that Man, for monetary gains, is denying tigers their birthright – to live safely. Large scale poaching has wiped out tiger populations – the tiger count in India has dropped from a meagre 4,334 in 1989 to an alarming 1411 in 2008. At this rate, tigers by becoming extinct, will affect the ecosystem so adversely that its effect will be felt on the other members of the ecosystem – herbivores would multiply, the number of plants would decrease and other adverse changes would occur – finally affecting Man.

For monetary gains, poachers have shown how easily they can delete the tiger from earth, just as easily as deleting a file from a

The History

computer hard disk. All this is due to government apathy among other factors.

Stringent steps need to be taken to combat this problem – poaching. Besides being banned, poachers should have to pay a heavy price as punishment. Besides, more natural reserves should be established so that the tiger can live in its natural habitat. Large scale awareness campaigns and signature campaigns (like the NDTV Save the Tiger Campaign) can be carried out by the media to highlight the importance of the tiger in the ecosystem. New genetic methods can be adopted to multiply tiger populations.

We must make a concerted effort to protect India's national animal form becoming extinct, so that future generations get to see them in their habitat, not in picture books or museums.

- Varun Adishankar,
15 years,
Chinmaya Vidyalaya,
Hyderabad

Wife: Why are you standing here?

Husband: I am going to hunt a lion.

Wife: Then go.

Husband: How can I go when a dog is standing outside?

- Saravanan G, Std XI,
Justice Basheer Ahamed Sayeed MMHS, Chennai.

Story

The Storyteller`s

Keshav was a well-known storyteller. People in and around the village where he lived, called Bhoomiraag, would wait for his story-telling sessions. His stories would be about kings and wars, about the survival of poor households, about the song of the Nature and about most things that a human mind could imagine. A story from Keshav was a sure-shot entertainment package of about two hours.

Every Saturday evening at 7pm., eager folks would encircle the big banyan tree located at the centre of the small village.

One thing that was very eye-catching about Keshav, the storyteller was his turban - without which no story would take off. He had this peculiar habit of rolling his finger into his turban while proceeding with his story.

One Friday, Keshav was shocked to find his turbans missing. He searched high and low for them, but they were not to be found. It was not an ordinary loss for the imaginative story-teller. He became very upset and the loss seemed to make him morose and sad. One of his main worries was – how would he tell a story without a turban the next day?

The news of the loss of the turban spread all over Bhoomiraag that day. For without his turbans, Keshav would not tell his tale. What would the villagers do without their Saturday entertainment? Reactions to the loss ranged from: "He could have taken better care of his turbans!" to "This will be a very boring weekend without a story." The villagers were most unhappy.

Then there was criticism – how could the storyteller not tell his tale without the turban? What had the turban to do with the story? As the day progressed, people began to wonder what the link between the turban and the story was. All kinds of stories began to float around. While some speculated that touching the turban sparked Keshav's imagination, others felt that the colour of the turban decided the type of story. A white turban meant that a story on peace would be related, a red turban would be an indicator of a love story and so on...

Finally, unable to withstand the suspense any more, a group of villagers knocked on Keshav's door to find out whether without

his turbans, he would really not tell a tale. They angrily waited for his response. To their surprise, a smiling Keshav opened the door. "How can you smile? Are you happy that you don't have to tell stories any more?" asked one villager.

"Are you out of ideas and is this one way of getting out of telling a new story?" asked another.

"How can a good storyteller do this?" demanded another.

Keshav smiled through the accusations and the protests. "I am sure all of you are wondering how the missing turbans affect the storyteller," he began, "The fact is, they don't."

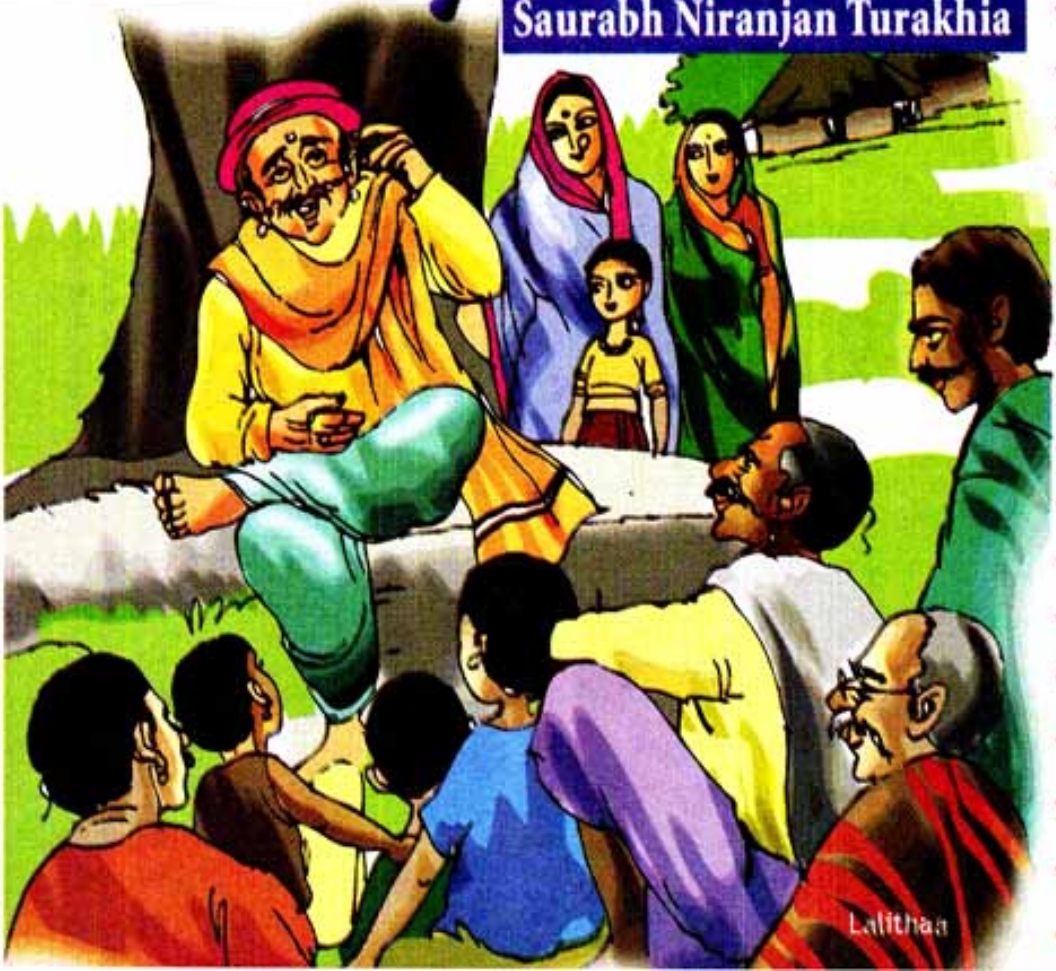
"What do you mean?" one angry listener demanded.

"It means, my friend that a good story comes from the heart - and from the surroundings. From Nature and people, from mannerisms and habits..."

Still confused, the populace

Story

Saurabh Niranjan Turakhia



A good story comes from the heart - and from the surroundings.

stood listening. Keshav said, "It is true that I had the habit of fiddling with the turban with my finger while relating a story. However, I do not know how the word spread that there is a link between the turban and my stories. Yes, I always wore a different turban for every story-session. However, I can tell stories without them too. In fact, I have spread the news that my turbans are lost – to prove that rumours are like stories. They emerge from a fertile mind and spread..."

He then opened a cupboard to show the group of villagers his turbans – intact and very safe. All smiled in relief.

The next day, Keshav related the tale of his missing turbans, much to the amusement of all the villagers. o

• B.M.Shreyas

• Ajay

B.M.Shreyas celebrates his fifteenth birthday on May 12. **Hearty birthday wishes** to him.

- Shishir, Shashank, Soujanya

D.Jayasurya celebrates his birthday on 7th May. **Happy birthday.**

- Wishes from **Dad** and **Mom**

Ajay celebrates his birthday on 24th May. **Happy birthday: Love you more each day.**

- Wishes from **Mummy, Daddy, Aachi, Thatha, Nanna, Thatha, Geetha aunty, Prakash Chithappa, Rhythwyn** and **Rishabh**

Make it Yourself

You need:

1 small potato
1 big potato
Water colours
Matchsticks,
2 black beads
Needle,
big size

Potato Rat

How to make it:

Drill holes horizontally into both potatoes and thread them together with a thick string with the help of the needle (get an adult to help with this).

Push matchsticks inside the hole in the front of the small potato and start colouring the rat black. Paste black beads above the matchstick nose in front.

For a tail, stick a matchstick behind the large potato, with the white end sticking out, looking like a tail.

Your potato rat is ready.

- V.G.Priya, Std IX,
Mahatma Gandhi Centenary Vidyalaya, Trichy

Poetry

My Diary

I have the habit of writing a diary
Nothing there involved a fairy
It tells stories of my life
There is also the story of a knife.
It says how I was once in a heap,
And also of how I once was cheap.
It reveals I am afraid of the dog,
And that also I can walk in a fog.
When I ask for pocket money,
Mother would say sorry.
My life is sometimes a comedy,
Here there is no remedy.
My diary is also a book of jokes,
When I read it sometimes it takes me back,
And wonder if I have been a bit of a 'crack'!

- G Saravanan,
Std XI, Justice Basheer Ahamed Sayeed MMHS for boys, Chennai

Ode to the Rain

Raindrops fall so light, like feathers,
This comes due to change in the weather.
In summer sometimes they do drizzle,
And make me feel dizzy,
As they fall, the flowers bloom,
And lifts from my face the gloom.

The rain gives life to many things,
Such as fish and birds;
As it falls from the sky
Peacocks dance with joy.

How beautiful you are, rain
So light and soft, the biggest gift for all.

- V. Sneha, Std X,
DAV BHEL School, Ranipet

Greek Legend

How the Spider was Born

Retold by
Sandhya Sridhar

A very interesting Greek legend speaks about how the spider came to be. The myth is of a young girl called Arachne, who was a gifted weaver and made beautiful tapestries. She became very famous and people came from far and wide to see her creations. The goddess Athene had taught her the craft and the girl began to think that she was better than her teacher. She was heard to say, "Not even Athene can weave as well as I do. If it came to a contest, I am sure I would win."

Now the Greek gods and goddesses are a moody lot and have been thought to do dangerous things when angry. Athene of course, heard of Arachne's boasting and decided to disguise herself as an old woman and visit the girl. "You may be wonderful in your craft," the old woman told Arachne, "But you must not be so proud and arrogant." Arachne, of course, would not listen. "I am good," said she, "So why should not I talk about it?"

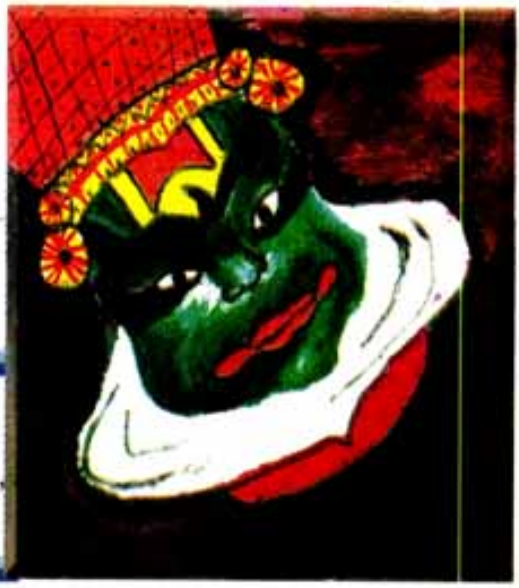
This attitude angered the goddess who showed herself in her true form. "If that is so you foolish girl," she said, "Let's have the contest right now!"

Everybody there was now frightened. Even Archane was taken aback but she had no choice but to have the contest. Both began to weave and create a tapestry each. But unfortunately, Arachne's work was better and more beautiful than Athene's. The goddess became angry and struck the girl on the forehead shouting, "May you weave and spin forever and so will your descendents!"

Arachne began to shrink and shrink till she became a tiny little creature. Her fingers became eight slender legs and lo! She was the spider scurrying across the floor and up the wall, where she placed herself, beginning to weave a delicate, intricate web.

R. Prashanth,
Jawahar Vidyalaya SSS,
Chennai - 83

Mridul Mohan,
Std. VIII,
Chinmaya Vidyalaya,
Kannur



Sandeep Rao Korocal,
Std. V, St. Mary's English School,
Udupi, Karnataka

P. Cibi Sakthi,
Std. VIII,
Rajah Muthiah Matric. H.S.S,
Chettipalayam, Karur

Colour Burst

S.Siddharth,
Std. V, Vedavalli Vidyalaya,
Senior Secondary School,
Walajapet

B. Shivanand,
Std. VII,
The Hyderabad Public School,
Hyderabad-13

Experience

Don't Lose Hope

This incident happened early this year. My friend and I participated in the Harry Potter Quiz Contest organised by the Vaze College Mulund. We practised a lot and read each book thoroughly before the competition. The first round was a qualifying round in which each team was given a sheet of paper which had a set of questions to be answered. Only a few teams who answered correctly could qualify. We did our best and submitted our papers.

It was announced later that two teams had tied. One of them was ours. Each one was asked a question. Ours was, "What is the meaning of Voldemort in French?" Since I knew French, I replied, "Flight from death." But to our shock, we discovered that we were wrong. The meaning, we were told, is "stealing of dead body". We asked the judges about this but were told off quite rudely.

It was a good experience in losing but at least our Potter knowledge was enhanced!

- Aparna Lakshmi Dorai,
Std XI, Vani Vidhyalaya
Jr. College, Mumbai

The Day I Watched

One Wednesday, when my dad returned home, he had a surprise for me. Two tickets for the next day's match to be played between India and Australia at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Kaloor. I was really happy and excited. A group of friends were also going, so it would be fun.

The next day, my father dropped me off at the stadium and seven of us made ourselves comfortable in our seats. We had brought plenty of snacks and lunch coupons and soon, the teams entered. I noticed that all our Indian team members looked towards the sun as if asking the

Pinch for a Thief

When I was studying in the IVth standard, we visited Mysore and the Brindavan Gardens. It was evening and the lights in this famous tourist spot were glowing – it was beautiful. The police were warning people constantly against thieves and pickpockets.

As we walked in admiring the lights, I noticed a man walking close to us, trying to pull out my father's purse to remove the money. I quickly walked up to him and pinched him hard. The man got a shock and ran away. When I told my father about it, he exclaimed and praised me for my action.

- C. V. Sruthi, Std IX, Amrita Vidyalayam, Coimbatore

Sun God for his blessings.

It was a superb match. We had so much fun, shouting and cheering, as well as munching on the snacks. It was not easy to watch every ball and I feel watching cricket on television sitting at home will be more ideal.

The Kiwis made a decent 300 plus score and as they left the pitch, we went to the canteen and got our fried rice for lunch, and were back

a Cricket Match

waiting for our boys to fight back.

Unfortunately, the match was a wipe-off for India.

As for me, I would prefer to watch the match more closely in the confines of my home.

- Anagha Ramesh, Std VII.

Dear Anagha,

This is an interesting experience but you have not given your school name or postal address. Please send it to us.

- Ed.

How I Learnt Dancing

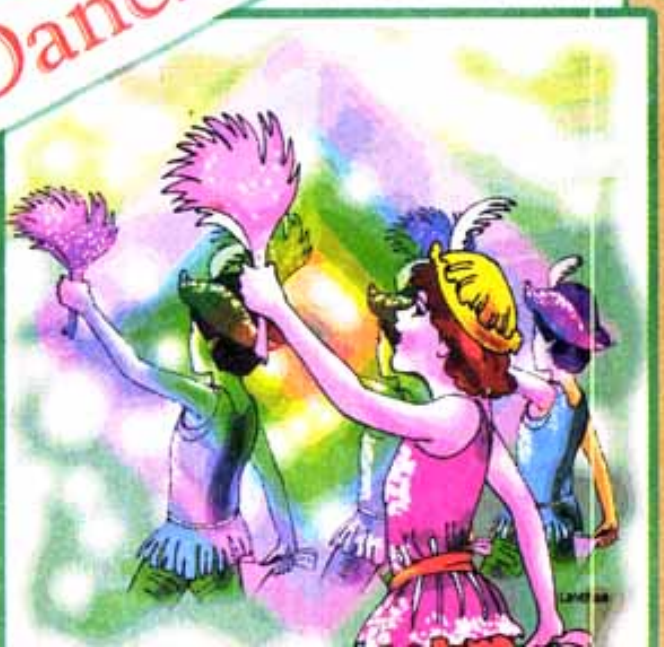
I fear participating in any event and for my school anniversary functions, for sports, dancing or singing events, I do not volunteer at all. I have an 'event phobia' wherein I try to avoid participation.

My school anniversary was fast approaching and our dance master was very serious about the group dance practise. Everything went on well until one fine day, a day before the performance, a boy in my class fell ill. Since I was the only one in class who was not into any activity, I was forcibly pulled into the dance to fill in the gap.

I pleaded with the master that I couldnot shake a leg. The dance master was adamant. "No problem, dear," was his reply, "Just do as the boy in the first line does. That's all."

So there I was, doing exactly that. Rehearsals went off well and the next day, our show was a mega hit. And now, I can actually dance, and I know I can do it. I am thankful to my dance master and am now confident of participating in such an event.

- Addanki Sesha Sai Kashyap, Std VIII, St. Joseph's Public School, Hyderabad



Letter Box

✉ The review of 'Dragon Rider' introduced me to a new fantasy book. My wishes to the reviewer.

The information you publish on Harry Potter is awesome!

- J.G.Anchana Devi, Std.X, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bengalooru

✉ I have been a regular reader of Gokulam since last year. I am really excited that my very first article was published in it. Thank you Gokulam.

- S.Gomathi, Std.IX, K.V., Sulur

✉ We are great fans of Gokulam.

- A.G.Pallavi, M.Megha, J.M. Neelima, Std.VI, Bala Bharathi School, Bellary

✉ Gokulam is very interesting and has helped me a lot for school projects.

- K.R.Varsha, Std.IX

✉ I am an avid reader of Gokulam. It has become a mania with me since 2005. Gullu's cross-word, viewpoint, jokes and grandmaworm are my must-reads. Gokulam is a very useful monthly which invites a lot of creativity. I have recommended it to my friends who want to better their English and have fun at the same time. Please introduce new contests for us Gokulam fans. Can I send articles for every

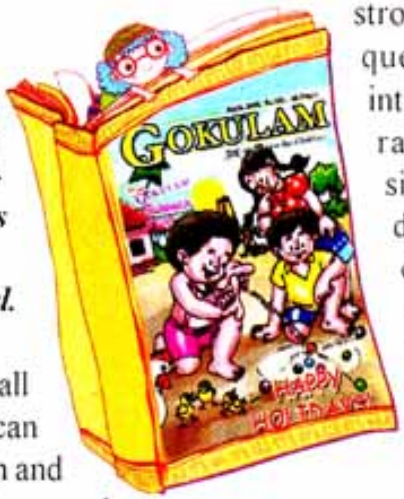
Democratic and Affordable!

issue?

- Jayeeta Sen Mazumder, Std.VI, D.P.S., Navi Mumbai

You are most welcome to send articles Jayeeta!

- Ed.



✉ Good news to all Gokulam readers. We can write more to Gokulam and our friends because the postal department of India has released the Meghdooth post card which costs only 25 paise each. So write more at a low cost.

- A.Aswini Vayiravan, Std.X, TVS Matric. School, Madurai

✉ I have been reading Gokulam from the year 2002 and it has improved a lot. I love the serial Cottage no.13. It's really interesting. The magazine is so enjoyable that I finish reading it in a very short time and I have to wait so long for the next issue. So why don't you make it a weekly magazine?

- V.Ashwini, Std.VII, Maharishi Vidya Mandir, Hosur

✉ The new serial 'Up Above the World' is great. It helps us to know about the universe.

- M.S.Srinivas, Std.IX, TVS MHSS, Madurai

✉ I have been reading Gokulam since I was 13 years old. Though it's for both children and adults, I would strongly request you to introduce a separate edition exclusively for college students. You could try including features like career guidance, counselling, scope and limits etc.

- Nisha Soman, 18 Yrs., St. G.G. College, Vasai (W), Maharashtra

✉ Hi everybody! I am Bhavini from Chennai, I am a new reader of Gokulam. You are simply great. I like your magazine verymuch. I want to appreciate the whole Gokulam team for bringing out such an outstanding magazine.

- V.Bhavini, Std.V, Adarsh Vidyalaya M.H.S.S., Chennai

✉ Hello Gokulam! Thank you for giving so any amazing facts, extra information and also helping to improve my language.

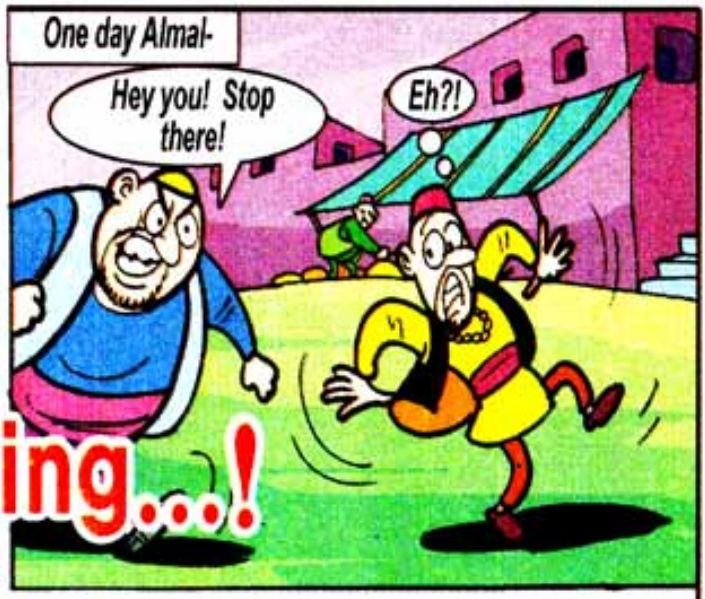
- Diksha Das, Std.VII, Carmel Sr. Sec. School, Port Blair

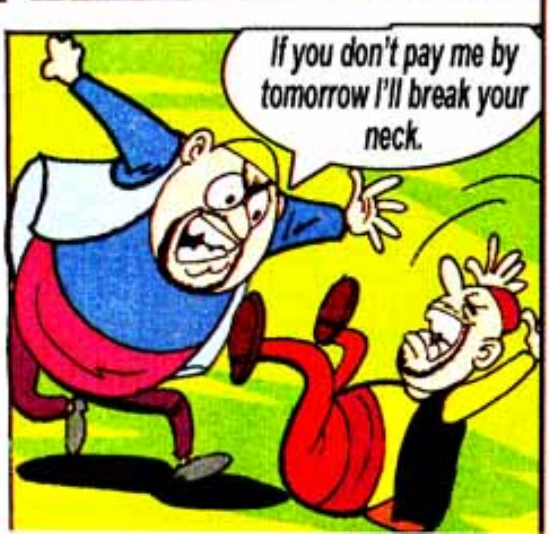
✉ I started reading Gokulam in 2007. My English has improved tremendously, since... I appreciate the Gokulam team for giving us a very good magazine. Gokulam is very democratic. It is also affordable. The March booklet about exams helped me very much.

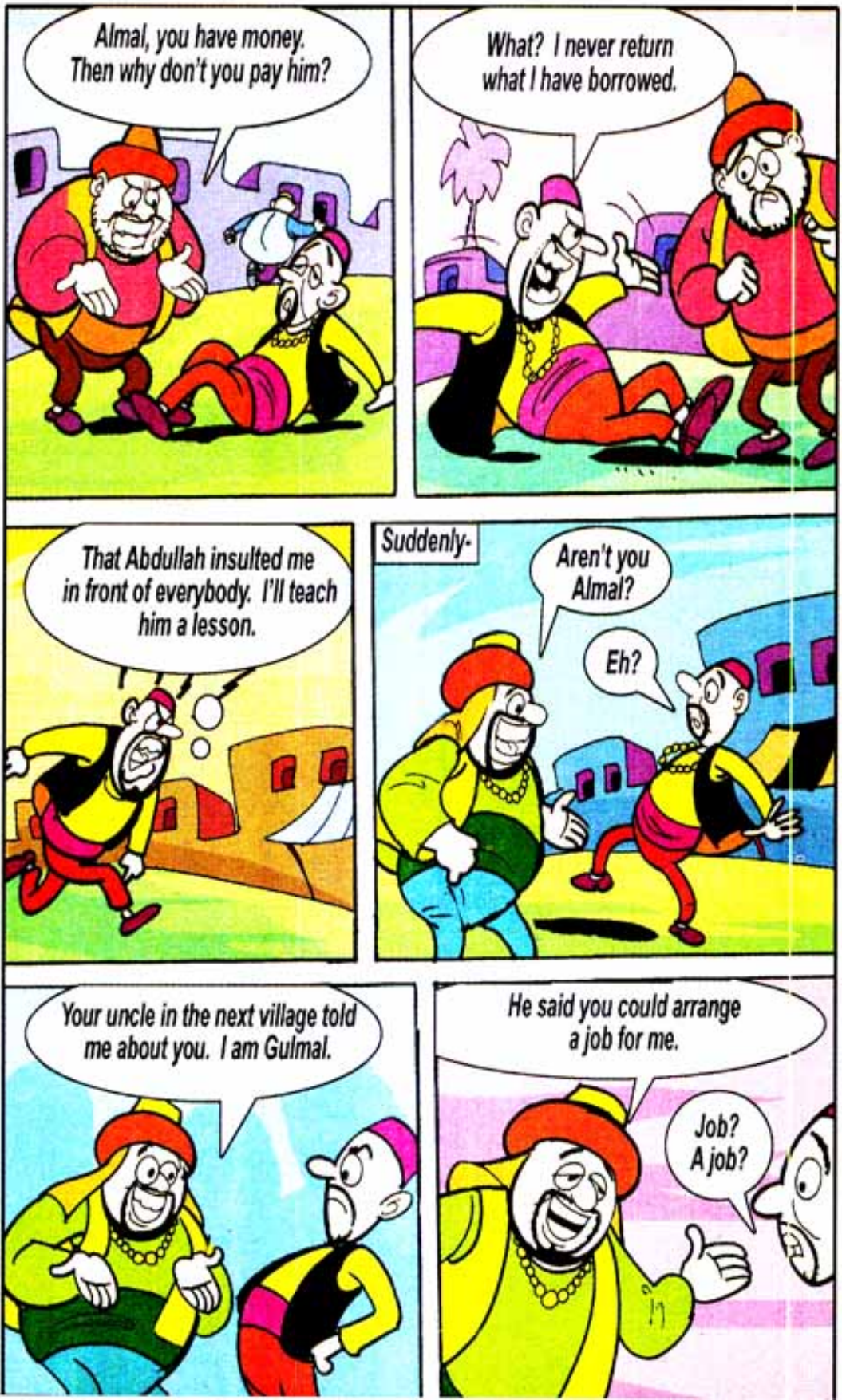
- R.Archana, Std.VIII, T.V.S.M.H.S., Madurai

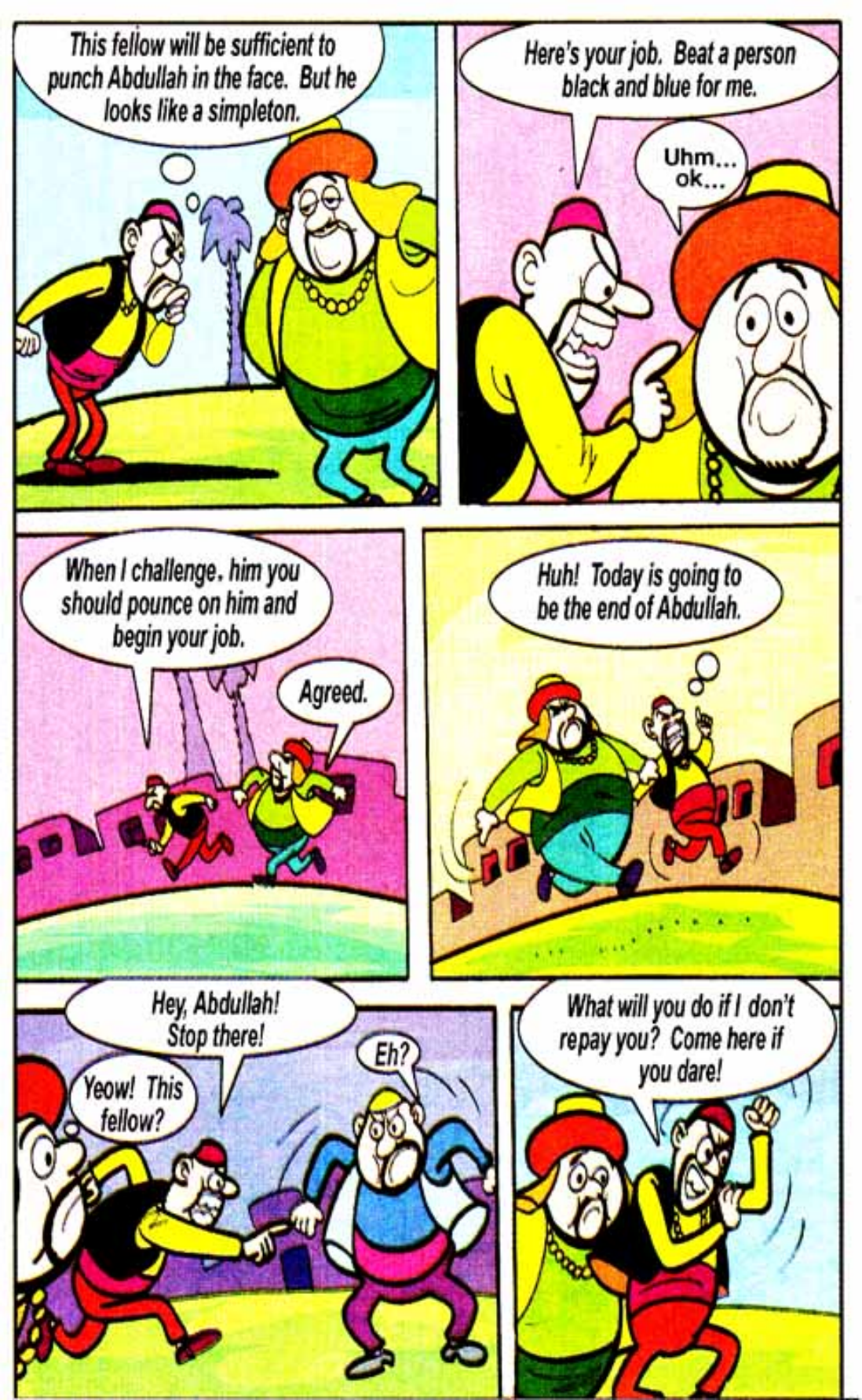
A Price for Everything...!

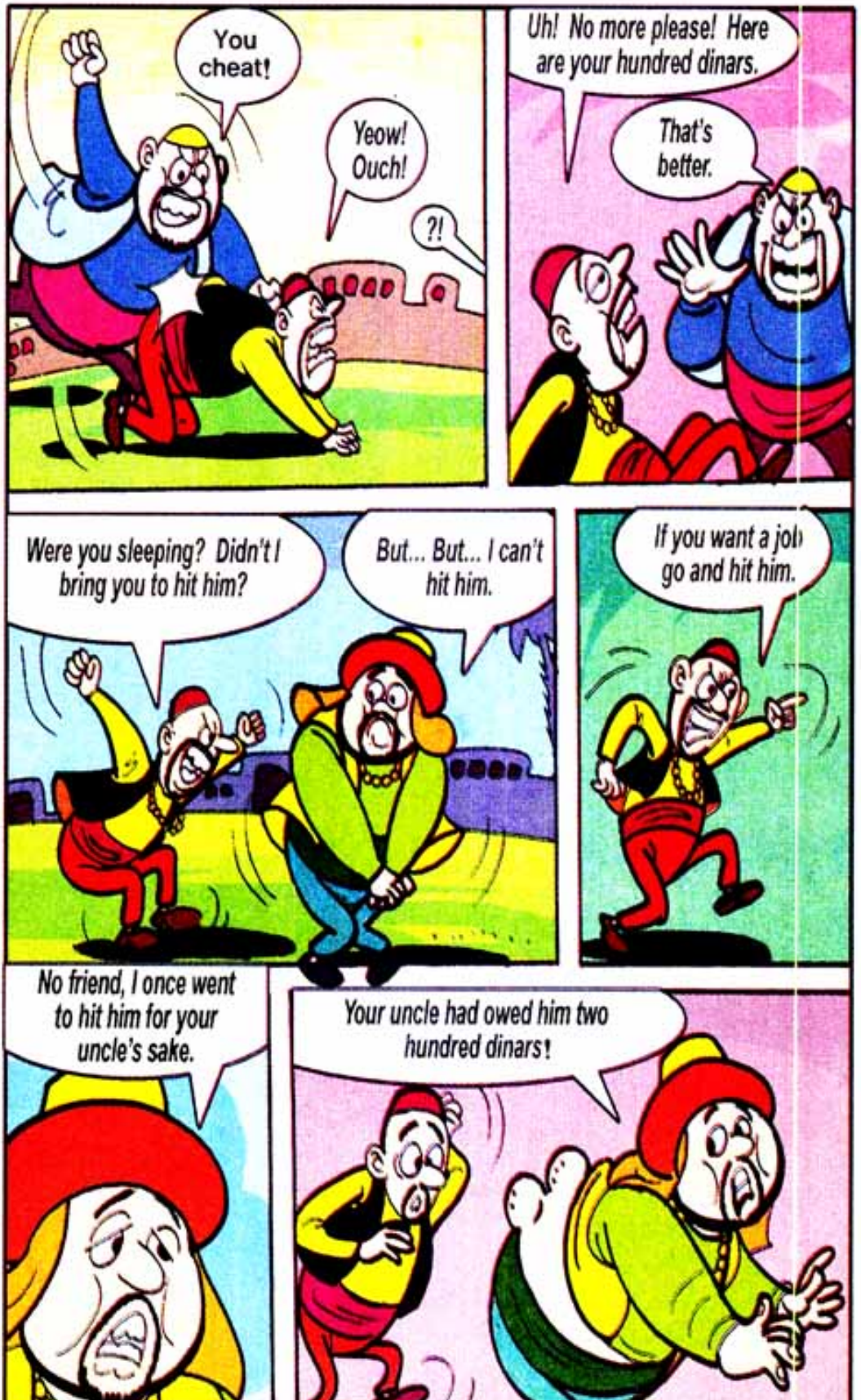
Jingle Bells feature






Almal, you have money. Then why don't you pay him?
What? I never return what I have borrowed.
That Abdullah insulted me in front of everybody. I'll teach him a lesson.
Suddenly-
Aren't you Almal?
Eh?
Your uncle in the next village told me about you. I am Gulmal.
He said you could arrange a job for me.
Job? A job?


This fellow will be sufficient to punch Abdullah in the face. But he looks like a simpleton.
Here's your job. Beat a person black and blue for me.
Uhm... ok...
When I challenge. him you should pounce on him and begin your job.
Agreed.
Huh! Today is going to be the end of Abdullah.
Hey, Abdullah! Stop there!
Yeow! This fellow?
Eh?
What will you do if I don't repay you? Come here if you dare!


You cheat!
Yeow! Ouch!
?!
Uh! No more please! Here are your hundred dinars.
That's better.
Were you sleeping? Didn't I bring you to hit him?
But... But... I can't hit him.
If you want a job go and hit him.
No friend, I once went to hit him for your uncle's sake.
Your uncle had owed him two hundred dinars!

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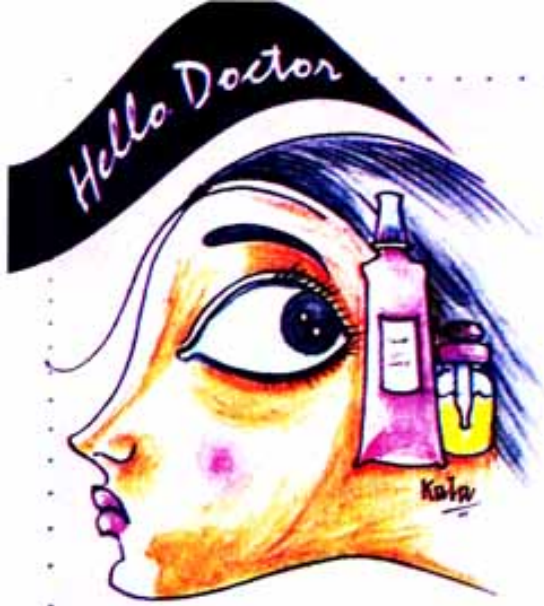


● **A.Aswini, Madurai - 20**

? I am 15 years. I get styes on my eyelids often. What is the reason? How can I prevent it?

! Boils on the eyelids are called styes. These are due to bacterial infection of the glands present at the roots of the eyelashes. The most commone causes for repeated eruptions of boils on the eyelids are lack of adequate or quality sleep, refractory errors, itchy eyes and diabetes. Hot water fomentation will help heal styes. Hold a towel soaked in hot water over the area for five minutes daily for five days. Using antibiotic eye drops or ointment for a week may reduce the swelling. To prevent the recurrence of this condition, you should keep your eyes clean always.

Dr.G.Ganesan

Does Shampoo

● **Punitha, Cochin**

? Is shampooing bad for our hair? Will it lead to loss of hair?

! Generally shampoos do not cause hair loss. Normal shampoos do not promote hair growth either. They are mere cleaning agents and can be used even everyday if it is required. Some medicated shampoos may lead to hair loss. In such cases, consult your family doctor to select the shampoo.

● **P.Aswathi, Villupuram**

? Why do we get cramps in the legs?

! A cramp is a painful condition of one or more muscles. It is caused by depletion of body fluids, minerals and electrolytes. It usually occurs after vigorous physical exertion in a very hot environment or after profuse sweating. We should take enough rest and take plenty of fluids like milk, fruit juices to get rid of the cramps. We should eat more vegetables and fruits to get sufficient minerals.

● **Humera, (Place not mentioned)**

? I am 14 years old. My hair falls continuously even though I eat nutritious food. Is this because of some ailment? Please advice me to stop my hair fall.

Cause Hair Loss?

! Some hair loss occurs everyday for everyone. For your age, losing 50 to 100 hairs a day is normal. It is usually replaced by fresh hairs. If this replacement does not occur, it should be looked into. A deficiency in thyroid hormone causes hair loss. Anaemia, liver disease, some drugs and an increased secretion of androgen hormone may cause hair loss. Some illnesses like typhoid fever, lack of sleep, stress, tension can trigger temporary hair loss. Consult your dermatologist. Find the cause for your case and treat it.

Essay

Self

The world functions by the intricate relationship between every living and non-living component. Man, being a social animal, requires the help of another to go about his business smoothly. Even though he is the most intelligent creature, he can never live his life by himself, alone. Each individual in this world has been gifted with different skills. God made us so that we could be dependable to others in times of their need. Just ponder for a while on how many times in your life you have proved yourself useful to others and how many times you have sought their help.

In our day-to-day lives, we seek the help of our fellow companions, parents, neighbours or relatives. True, they are important for us to survive. But self-reliance is one value that each of us must learn and understand. Depending on yourself will definitely help you out during the toughest times of your life. The quality of self-reliance must be inculcated in today's youth.

Mahatma Gandhi always said "Do your work yourself". You could achieve beyond your imagination if you could only guide yourself in the right path.

Self-reliance is all about utilizing all the gifts bestowed upon you in achieving success. When you are self-reliant, automatically success reaches your doorstep. You cannot feel success if you do not know how to use your own brain, feet and hands. There are many people who have wasted away all their strength and might out of pure lethargy. Over-dependence on others is a mark of laziness. And no man on Earth has been able to succeed through laziness. All the great men ever to have walked on Earth were able to accomplish things in their life because they had the powerful tool of self-reliance stored up inside them. The lives of such people are fine examples to us.

God has given us a brain as wide as the ocean and fingers long enough to brush the clouds. All we need to know is how to use them.

Try observing self-reliant people around you. You would never find them cursing life or fate for their shortcomings. They believe that their fate is written by themselves. When you

possess powers that could twist your fate then why squander it away? Just try doing all your work for one day and experience the joy you get out of it.

Sometimes, we may not possess certain qualities. This is when others become most important. Self-reliance does not mean refusing others' help even when we need it. Being adamantly independent is unhealthy and can be a sign of arrogance or distrust. But being diligently self-reliant is both joyful and rewarding. When you are immersed in your own work, you become more and more eager to know more things. You are open to ideas, advise and opinions. When you widen your wisdom, your capacities also widen.

But how can we become self-reliant? First of all, we can all try using our time fruitfully without wasting a single minute. Secondly, we can give up laziness and do little chores ourselves instead of palming them off on somebody else. The third and most important step would be to take initiatives to complete tasks assigned to us without hesitation and fear.

Reliance

- Anju V.Nambiar,
Std.X, Ladyhill Victoria G.H.S.,
Mangalore

Birthday Bash!

Vidya celebrates her thirteenth birthday on 29th May. **Many many happy returns of the day Vidya. All the best for a bright future.**

From Vineeth, Shylaja and Viswanathan

Manoj. **Mutalik** celebrates his fifteenth birthday on 28th May.

Many many happy returns of the day! May you achieve your highest dreams. Best of Luck!

- sister (Megha), parents, sister's friends.

Our best friends **Sri, Sahithya, Priya** celebrate their birthdays on May 6th, May 27th and May 27th respectively.

"As they celebrate their birthday, let their life be full of happiness, gaiety and pleasure bringing their way bright moments to treasure forever. Happy birthday! "

- R.Shree Vidhya, D.Aishwarya, K.T.Bhuvana Bharati and the whole of VIII. 'A'

K.Madhu Karunya celebrates her birthday on 10th May! **May all that you wish for, become reality. Have a wonderful life!**

- Hari, Kishore, Kanmani, Krishna Moorthy and family.

Swetha turns fourteen on 29th May.

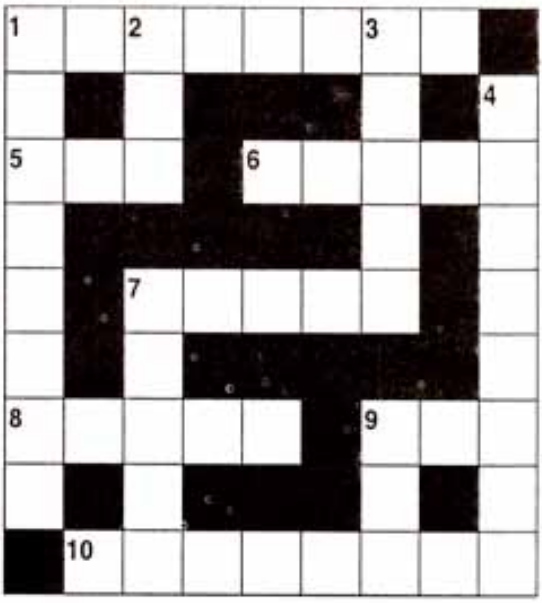
May heaven's choicest blessings be showered upon you!

- With sweet wishes, N.Akilandeswari

My sister **A.V.Sri Vaishnavi** is going to celebrate her 11th birthday on 22nd May.

I wish her a happy birthday!

- A.V.Shiva Seshasai, Std.VIII, The Hyderabad Public School (R), Hyderabad - 500 013



Clues

Across:

1. Sparrows love this dirty cleansing! (8)
5. Almond and Cashew belong to this category (3)
6. A planet no more (5)
7. Now this is Vodofone (5)
8. A winner without the first letter! (5)
9. Tit for ..... (3)
10. In grief (8)

Down:

1. An ancient Indian language (8)
2. A disagreeing word inside knots (3)
3. What philosophers seek (5)
4. A great Greek philosopher who died of poison (8)"
7. Temples have these money deposit boxes (5)
9. A situation where both teams score equal runs (3)

-G.S.S

Gullu's Crossword-10

Gullu's Crossword - 8

1 s	t	2 a	b	3 l	e	■	4 f
h	■	b	■	e	■	■	o
5 e	n	d	■	6 t	7 a	l	l
r	■	8 u	s	■	r	■	k
l	■	c	■	9 g	o	■	l
10 o	a	t	11 s	■	12 u	n	o
c	■	■	i	■	n	■	r
k	■	13 c	r	a	d	l	e

Congratulations!

Here are the winners of Gullu's Crossword - 8 (March 2008) and the solutions as well. The results of Gullu's Crossword - 9 will be published in the June 2008 issue.

1.V.Srivatsa, Std.IX, Central School II, CSWT, Indore.

2. Sushma S.Kini, Std.X, Milagres English Medium High School, Santhekatte Post, Udupi Dist.

3. R. Sukanya, Std.VIII, Kendriya Vidyalaya, O.N.G.C., Panvel, Navi Mumbai.

4. K. Karen, Std.IX, Nirmala Matric. H.S.S., Chidambaram.

5. M.J. Sundara Lakshmi, Std.VII, St. Ignatiu's Convent H.S.S., Palayamkottai.

Gullu's Crossword - 10 ENTRY FORM

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class : .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

..... Pin .....

Signature : .....

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
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• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on the reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies.

Last Date : 25.5.2008

All GOKULAM Readers and Contributors!

Most of you have been sending us jokes, facts and snippets gathered from the internet or G.K. books. Do show us how original you can be. Write your thoughts and ideas on various issues. Report funny happenings at school or home. Do make sure that you put down your name, age, class, school name and residential address individually on each and every contribution that you send to Gokulam.

★ The best ones will be published and a participation certificate will be sent to the contributor.

★ Please preserve your participation certificates. In case you don't receive the certificates which are mailed to you by Gokulam, keep a xerox copy of your contribution in your collection.

★ All competition entries should reach us before the last date mentioned.

★ Entries to Birthday Bash column should reach us along with the appropriate message and photographs **two months before the birthday.**

★ Do be original in your contributions and creations. If you have based your writing on a source, be sure to acknowledge it and name it and...

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BILLU

Concept, Picture: Pillai

MILKA

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